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Issue 56 - December 2010
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Japanese Type 94 Tankette

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FLAK ■ TYPE 94 TANKETTE THINK TANK ■ AND MORE...

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Contents - Issue 56 December 2010

Model
MILITARY
INTERNATIONAL

24



12



28



REGULARS

p 4 NEWS

What's new in the world of military modelling

p 50 LETTERS

Model Military International's visitors have their say

p 51 DIARY DATES

A listing of upcoming worldwide models shows and events

p 52 SMALL SCALE

The latest releases in 1:72 and smaller

p 54 INCOMING

MMI's thoughts on the latest kits and accessories

p 58 1:48 SCALE

Luke Pitt explores 1:48 scale military models, figures and accessories

p 60 BOOK REVIEWS

A look at the latest titles on our doorstep

p 66 LAST POST

Late breaking news and ramblings from the Editor

FEATURES

p 6 THINK TANK

TYPE 94 JAPANESE TANK
by Tobias Gibson

p 12 THE MANCHURIAN CANDIDATE

Fine Molds' 1:35 scale Type 94 Japanese Tank by Luke Pitt

p 22 CAMOUFLAGE CORNER

Research and Colour Profile
by William Marshall

p 24 BT-7 GALLERY

Tamiya's 1:35 scale kit by
Takahiro Sumitomo

p 26 PREVIEW

GreatWall Hobby's 1:35 scale
SWS with Flak 43 by Luke Pitt

34



p 28 ROLLING SHOCK

Andrew Judson builds
Trumpeter's 1:35 scale
Panzerjäger Triebwagen

p 32 BUILD REVIEW

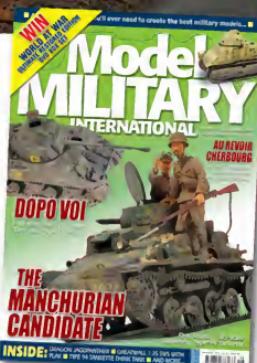
Dragon's 1:35 Jagdpanther
by Graham Tetley

p 34 DOPO VOI

Sherman Firefly Mk.VC
conversion using Tamiya's
1:48 scale kit and Fighting
48th's conversion by Brett
Green

p 44 TECH GUIDE: CHERBOURG PART 5

The concluding instalment
of Justo Mira's impressive
small-scale diorama



INSIDE: PLATEAU 1:35 TAMIYA'S 1:35 T-34 WITH
THE MANCHURIAN CANDIDATE

AD REVIEW: CHERBOURG

DOPPO VOI

THE MANCHURIAN CANDIDATE

AD REVIEW: CHERBOURG

AD REVIEW: CHERBOURG</p

TAMIYA TS SPRAYS BACK IN THE UK

After an absence from the UK for three years, Tamiya "TS" series aerosol spray cans are due to make a welcome return very soon.

Tamiya's TS sprays have been completely reformulated to deliver an improved quality and finish. The new paint has been extensively tested after long term storage in extremes of hot and cold temperatures and Tamiya engineers report being delighted with the enhanced quality level that has been achieved.

The new formulation is also fully compliant with all current and forthcoming EEC regulations - a vital claim in this world of ever-stricter regulation of chemical products.

85 colours have now been reformulated and of these 54 will be hitting UK model shop shelves in mid-October. The balance should be in place before the end of the year.

Look out for the new improved TS Sprays for Plastic from Tamiya!

Tamiya products are distributed in the UK by The Hobby Company Limited www.hobbyco.net



MINIART BRITISH TANK RIDERS

MiniArt has released a new set of four 1:35 scale British tank riders plus a tank Commander.

All the figures are dressed in tropical garb. Although they are posed on MiniArt's Valentine in these photos, they should be equally at home on other vehicles including Matildas, Shermans and Churchills.

More information and images may be found on MiniArt's website www.miniart-models.com



RHINO MODELS BT-7 MODEL 1937 CONVERSION

Rhino Armour Models has released a 1:35 scale BT-7 Model 1937 conversion for the Tamiya 1/35 scale BT-7 Model 1935. This retails at £19.50.

Note that Rhino Armour Models will be releasing just the tracks and the sprockets as a separate set under part number RAM35004. These will retail for £13.50.

Rhino Models products are available online from A2Zee Models www.a2zeemodels.co.uk



PRISM Fund Supports Iconic Tank

The Tank Museum in Dorset has been awarded a £20,000 grant from the Museums Libraries and Archives Council's PRISM fund. The popular attraction will use the grant to preserve and continue the restoration of its iconic German Tiger I tank. This ongoing project, which has also been generously supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, began in 1998 and in 2004 saw the Tiger returned to running order for the first time since the War. Of the 1,300 originally built, only a handful of Tiger tanks survive in museums and exhibitions world wide, and Tiger 131 is the only one in running condition. It was captured in Tunisia in 1943 by the 48th Royal Tank Regiment and was the first Tiger to be captured intact by the Allies. Whilst in Tunis the vehicle was visited by Winston Churchill and King George VI, before being sent back to the UK for public display at Horse Guards in London. In 1951 the Tiger was officially handed to the Tank Museum, where it has become one of the most famous exhibits. The Tank Museum's curator, David Willey, said: "This £20,000 PRISM award will enable further work to be carried out to assess the impact of running this unique historic vehicle and provide the unique opportunity to return the tank to a more original condition since it was first disassembled as part of its evaluation during the Second World War."

The investigation work will provide the Tank Museum and the wider heritage sector with the opportunity to evaluate what benefits can be gained by running a mechanical historic item. "Wear during running causes an inevitable loss of originality but running a vehicle can massively increase its interpretation value and reveal new information and maintain relevant skills", David added.

MLA Director of Programme Delivery, Hedley Swain says: "MLA is very pleased to be able to provide PRISM support to this important project. This type of initiative is vital for the development of our understanding of important objects and towards bringing history to life for all to enjoy."

Director of The Tank Museum, Richard Smith says: "The Museum is very appreciative of this award. Restoring the Tiger is not just of importance to our Museum, it is an iconic symbol of tank technology and military might and is a powerful example of what our citizen soldiers had to meet and defeat in WW2."



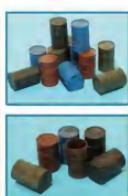
NEW BOOK FROM PANZERWRECKS

Panzewrecks announces the release of their first hard cover book, entitled 'Repairing the Panzers Vol.1', by Lukas Friedl.

This title describes in detail how Germany kept its infamous Panzers running throughout six years of war and prepared for motorized warfare. Organisation, special vehicles and logistics are covered as well.

The book comprises 256 pages illustrated with 291 large format photos, most unpublished and reproduced full-page size, plus 17 drawings, 5 diagrams, 19 tables and 17 K.St.N.s.

More information, including page samples are on the Panzerwrecks website www.panzewrecks.com/rplinfo.htm/



NEW RELEASES FROM ACCURATE ARMOUR

Accurate Armour has a stack of new releases over the last few months. These include:

- A104 - British WWII AFV Tools
- A129 - Fuel Drums
- A130 - Damaged Drums
- A131 - UK Mk.7 Helmets
- A132 - LBSA2 & L22A2
- A134 - Colt Commander
- FS14 - Jackal Crew Set
- FS15 - Jackal / Coyote 4-Man Crew Set #1

More information may be found on Accurate Armour's website www.accurate-armour.com



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A prototype Type 94 special purpose tractor, towing a chemical warfare trailer. The trailer could dispense a number of irritant or other chemical agents. They were not used extensively, as they had to approach too closely to enemy positions and the Type 94 was vulnerable to most infantry small arms.



This prototype Type 94 tractor has a smaller turret, and is towing a disinfectant trailer, used to spray neutralizing chemicals on toxic compounds. While the Japanese did use gas and irritant chemicals, most of these were delivered by artillery.

TYPE 94 TANKETTE IN JAPANESE SERVICE

Bruce Culver discusses the background, development and operations of the diminutive Japanese Type 94 Tankette.

The failure of Japan to mount adequate armour designs and develop effective tactics was to contribute to her eventual defeat. Japan in the 1920s and 30s was a fairly poor, mostly agrarian nation with a limited industrial base. In addition, the military planners had a bias toward building up the navy, often at the expense of army modernization.

Shortages of industrial capacity and funds resulted in reduced efforts to produce truly modern effective tanks, yet in many ways Japan was an innovative country, and aspects of the tanks that were fielded often had ingenious solutions to design problems. In addition, Japanese military

leaders had gone to some trouble to investigate the latest new tank designs in the 1920s, and these influenced the initial Japanese tank designs.

A LIGHT TANK FOR JAPAN

Among the tanks Japan purchased in the 1920s were six British Carden-Loyd machine gun carriers and two Mk VIB carriers. Though these were all small lightly armoured vehicles, they had real advantages for Japan. They were small and inexpensive to build, and the larger numbers would allow Japan's army to field more units equipped with mechanized forces. The Imperial Japanese Army began development of several classes of armoured fighting vehicles:

tankettes, light and medium tanks, and even heavy tanks, though their expense was a limiting factor.

The prototype of the Type 94 was built by Tokyo Gas and Electric Industry, and was tested in China and Japan in 1934. It was standardized as the Type 94 tankette, but was designated TK ("Tokushu Ken-in sha" (Special Tractor). It was designed as an armoured turreted tractor to tow chemical warfare and supply trailers. There were two chemical warfare trailers. One dispensed poisonous and irritant chemicals, and the other trailer was a disinfectant model used to neutralize enemy chemical agents.

In any event, the chemical trailers were not used as they had

to be close to the enemy to spread the chemicals, and the Type 94 tankette was too vulnerable to enemy fire to allow this. Thus, the only trailer actually towed in action was a tracked lightly armoured supply model, used largely in China, but also found elsewhere. It had two large wheels on each side and front and rear idlers, and mounted the same tracks used on the tankette.

The Type 94 tankette was a conventional small lightly armoured vehicle. The hull was riveted together from light armour plates, 6mm to 12mm thick. The design layout placed the driver at the right front of the hull, with the engine next to him on the left. The engine was an air-cooled four-



This is the early model of the Type 94 tankette, designated as TK, "Tokushu Ken-in sha" (Special Tractor). Note the raised rear idler, and the suspension using horizontal springs and bellcranks with equalizing bogies. This design was used on most Japanese tanks.



Possibly a posed shot for a manual, this view shows the Type 94 tankette with all hatches open. Though many armies painted the interior surfaces of hatches in the exterior colour, here the interiors are white. Inside the turret is the 6.5mm light MG mount.



This Type 94 driver is partially protected by the raised driver's hatch. Note the hinged flap at the top, which dropped down behind the driver's head when the hatch was closed. Both the driver's and commander's turret hatches had hold-open locks as seen here. The opened armoured side air intake grill allowed better cooling on road marches.

cylinder gasoline model developing 35 hp. The drive sprockets were at the front end of the lower hull. The turret was placed at the rear of the hull behind the driver's position. There was a large top hatch comprising most of the turret roof, and a mount for a 6.5mm light MG in the turret front plate. The tank commander manually rotated the turret by pressure on the MG buttstock. There was room in the hull rear behind the tank commander, and this was often used to carry extra supplies when the vehicles were being used as supply tractors.

The Type 94 was one of the first Japanese tanks to use the

simplified suspension designed by Major Tomio Hara. Hara's design consisted of two suspension bogies on each side of the lower hull. They were sprung using large horizontal coil springs in an armoured housing. The spring connected to the bogies through bellcranks, and the bogies themselves pivoted on the bellcranks, thus equalizing the suspension under load. This new suspension was used on the majority of Japanese armoured fighting vehicles. It was simple and easy to maintain, accessible entirely from the outside of the vehicle, and was one of the most successful Japanese tank design features.

The Type 94 tankette could ford 0.5 meters of water. Though underpowered, Type 94 tankettes could travel on roads or across shallow rivers with little trouble. They often did get bogged down in heavy vegetation, especially the tall tough grasses found in SE Asia and parts of the Pacific.

DESIGN IMPROVEMENTS

The early models of the Type 94 had a raised rear idler at the rear of the lower hull. One problem plaguing the Type 94 was a tendency to throw tracks in high-speed turns, caused in part by the short track run on the ground, and the use of external guide horns on the narrow tracks. To solve the track throwing, the Type 94 suspension was extensively modified by replacing the raised rear idler with a much larger trailing idler. This increased the track run on the ground, as the trailing idler extended well past the rear end of the lower hull, requiring a new mount. The

tracks were not changed, and the problem remained; the Type 94 kept throwing tracks when pushed in high-speed turns. The successor to the Type 94, the Type 97 Te-ke tankette, carried over the large trailing idler but also used a new track with central guide horns and double road wheels on each axle.

The later model of the Type 94 was modestly up-gunned with a 7.7mm light MG in the turret and the revised suspension with the trailing idler. At least a few received a 37mm anti-tank gun in a revised turret, which provided much better defensive fire capability, but the thin armour was a problem through the entire ▶



Early Type 94s support an attack on the Gate of China complex during the assault on Nanjing (Nanking) in 1937. Several tanks carry Japanese national flags. Note the consistent use of the three-colour camouflage scheme on all these tankettes.



Type 94 tankettes lead Japanese forces entering Shanghai. The poorly armoured Type 94 could still serve as a light tank in China because the Chinese army had very few armoured vehicles during the initial Japanese advances.



Think Tank - Type 94 Tankette in Japanese Service



A common use for the Type 94 was towing tracked supply trailers, as the chemical warfare trailers originally intended for the Type 94 were not used very much. Here a column of Type 94s advances during the landing on Hangzeou in 1937.



Early Type 94s on Hainan Island in 1937. It was common for tank crews to ride with the hatches open on road marches, and to ride outside the vehicles.



Light tanks like this Type 94 enabled the Japanese to maintain order in cities and other populated areas. Most peasants in China in the 1930s had never seen a motor vehicle, adding to the intimidation value of these tankettes, and even in some cities vehicles were fairly uncommon.



The Type 94 tankette was one of the most widely produced Japanese tanks, allowing a large number of units to be equipped with armoured vehicles. In the China campaigns of the 1930s, the Type 94 was the most common light tank used by Japanese military units. These tanks pass over an unusual bridge with a chain-driven movable centre span section.



In less than suitable terrain conditions, the low engine power and narrow tracks of the Type 94 often resulted in a bogged down tank, even though it weighed only three tons.



The three colour camouflage schemes on these Type 94 tankettes are much lighter than normal, perhaps as a result of a result of correcting filters used by the photographer. Note much of the tool stowage is missing from the nearest tankette.



The suspension of the Type 94 tankette was sensitive to the weight in and on the vehicle, and when loaded with the crew and extra soldiers on back, the chassis developed a noticeable squat at the rear end. Some tanks also carried supplies inside the rear hull.



Type 94 tankettes in China, 1943, towing their distinctive tracked supply trailers. The noticeable squat in these tanks' suspensions indicates they are also carrying supplies in the rear cargo area of the hulls - there was space for stowing extra supplies behind the tank commander in the turret.



A number of Type 94 tankettes were issued to Imperial Japanese Navy land forces. This IJN tankette carries the standard metal Navy anchor badge on the bow access hatch box.



These Type 94s were in service in Kwangtung province, China during Operation Ichigo, 1944. Against enemy troops with no armour or anti-tank weapons, the Type 94 was useful even into the end-of-war period, but in most cases, they were easily destroyed.



The later model of the Type 94 tankette had a redesigned chassis with a larger rear idler that extended the track run on the ground. This late model has been armed with a 37mm gun replacing the usual 7.7mm light machine gun. Except for the larger gun and new turret, this tankette is similar to the late Type 94 with the light MG.

war. The 37mm gun was adopted as the standard armament for the follow-on model, the Type 97 Te-ke tankette.

THE TYPE 94 IN SERVICE

In spite of its technical deficiencies, the Type 94 tankette provided useful service in the war in China, starting in the mid-1930s. The Nationalist Chinese Army

had very few armoured vehicles or anti-tank weapons, and even very light tankettes could break through enemy defensive positions. As a supply tractor, the Type 94 supplemented the very limited supply of motorized transport available to the Japanese army in China.

Their most useful property was the ability to present the

appearance of the superiority of the Japanese army to the Chinese people, and so help maintain order in captured Chinese territories. In a country where most people had rarely seen a motor vehicle, much less a tank equipped with armour and a machine gun, even the small tankettes so widely used by Japan in the 1930s would have seemed to be terrifying weapons.

The situation in the war in the Pacific against the United States was far different. As early as the Japanese invasion of the Philippines in late 1941, the shortcomings of the light tankette became obvious. The 37mm guns on the early M3 light tanks were able to penetrate most of the armour on the Chi-ha medium tank, and all of the armour on all light ▶



Think Tank - Type 94 Tankette in Japanese Service

▲ tanks and tankettes. The Type 97 Shinhoto Chi-ha medium tank with the 47mm gun in a new turret was rushed to the Philippines to help deal with the American tanks, but there was little that could be done to upgrade the Type 94 and Type 97 tankettes.

The slow production rates for Japanese tanks also limited what could be accomplished, as there were never enough light or medium tanks available to make a decisive difference in the outcome of a battle. In the battles in the Pacific, Japanese tank forces were usually well out numbered,

and even meeting only the M3-M5 light tanks, the Japanese unit were overwhelmed. With the introduction of the M4 Sherman to the Pacific theatre, only the Shinhoto Chi-ha medium tanks had any hope of defeating the US armoured forces.

The terrain and heavy foliage in most Pacific campaigns reduced combat ranges considerably compared to most other areas of operation. Yet the machine guns and 37mm cannon of most Japanese tankettes and light tanks could not penetrate most US tank armour at any range. The Type

97 Shinhoto Chi-ha's 47mm gun could defeat the side armour of a Sherman at the usual ranges found in the Pacific theatre, and the divisional 47mm anti-tank gun was easily concealed in the jungles and was considered dangerous to US tanks.

After a series of disastrous early campaigns in which most Japanese armour was literally slaughtered in ill-conceived Banzai charges, the Japanese changed their tactics, going to defence in depth instead of on the beaches. Most tanks were either dug in as fixed defensive pillboxes, or they were used to

reinforce defensive positions, providing a local salvoing force to break up enemy attacks.

Hopelessly obsolete by 1944, the Type 94 tankettes soldiered on, and were usually destroyed quickly by artillery or tank guns. Their carcasses littered the Pacific islands for years until scrapped, and some remain to this day. A few have been preserved in various museums, and an excellent example in running condition was recently sold to a collector in the United Kingdom, perhaps the last intact specimen of the breed. ■

"Hopelessly obsolete by 1944, the Type 94 tankettes soldiered on, and were usually destroyed quickly by artillery or tank guns..."



The rear of the same tankette shows the longer track run and the larger idler. A new rear mount for the idler was added to the rear of the hull. The rear tow hook had to be extended on a subframe, as seen here. The new idler was intended to prevent throwing tracks during high-speed turns, but it didn't improve the situation, and throwing tracks was a continuing problem.



In January 1944, the US invaded Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshall Islands group. Though the Japanese put up stiff resistance, the battle was over in four days. This USMC M4A2 Sherman, KILLER, of C Company, 4th Marine Tank Battalion, piggybacks a captured damaged late model Type 94 tankette.



This view of KILLER on Kwajalein shows the mid-production M4A2 Sherman with the Type 94 tankette up. Note the Marine crew's uniforms and tanker helmets. The Sherman's wooden side "soft" armour was intended to defeat Japanese magnetic bombs, a very common addition to USMC Shermans.



Completely obsolete, this early model Type 94 tankette was dug in as a fixed pillbox on Shuri ridge during the battle for Okinawa, May-June, 1945. Many of the Japanese tanks on Okinawa, like this example, were not operational after a short while, and were used to reinforce defence points. The majority were quickly destroyed in fierce fighting. The US M2 .50 Browning heavy MG was capable of penetrating most of the armour on the Type 94 firing standard ammunition, as could .30 armour piercing ammunition.

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ARMO72778	D-30 for T-34 (MVK) with PE metal parts	\$6.00

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ARMO72782	Hetszer (UM 352)	\$6.00
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BRU72778	D-30 for T-34 (MVK) with PE metal parts	\$6.00

Brumbar 1/72 Metal Gun Barrels

BRU72779	E-100 (DML) 725E	\$6.75
BRU72780	STRV 103 C (Trumpeter 07220)	\$6.75
BRU72781	Pz.Kpfw.IV Ausf H (UM 352)	\$6.75
BRU72782	Hetszer (UM 352)	\$6.00
BRU72783	Staghound (all versions) RPM kit	\$7.00
BRU72784	T-72 (ACE kit) with PE	\$5.25
BRU72785	T-72 (Revell 03149) with PE	\$8.75
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BRU72787	Sd.Kfz.138/1 Bison (UN34)	\$6.00

Brumbar 1/72 Metal Gun Barrels

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THE MANCHURIAN CANDIDATE

Luke Pitt discovers the meaning of the word "small" as he builds Fine Molds' 1:35 scale Type 94 Tankette and its crew.



The Japanese Type 94 is small and I mean, really small. This in itself was a motivator to purchasing the kit.

I came across this kit at a regional competition with a couple of swap and sell tables. It is funny how a model that is attractively priced can tempt us. We all like a bargain, don't we? The trader was asking the princely sum of \$20 for the kit, which was enough incentive to buy it.

When the transaction was completed, the trader added he had the Modellkasten track set for it for a further \$15 and I thought what the heck, I'll buy that too!

At that stage, my intention was to do this kit sometime in the future. The model joined my "to do" pile. About a year later, I had completed a Japanese Type 97 that had been featured in this magazine a few months ago and as I was on a bit of a Japanese armour kick, so I looked at the possibility of building it.



The basic road wheel and exhaust components are shown in this view. Note the drive sprockets are placed into the Modellisten links for overall strength of the completed track assembly.



In this overall view, the basic layout is being checked for fit. Note on each track end a small track pin dome has been glued into position.

One lazy afternoon I was a little bored and decided to have a look at what was new on the Hobbylink Japan web site (come on guys be honest with me, we all do it). To my surprise, a company based in Japan had released a figure set for the Type 94, which from the very small photograph looked pretty good. It's strange how things and ideas sometimes just seem to fall into place. I ordered the figure set on line and proceeded to build the model based on the imminent arrival of the figures. To be honest, on arrival, the figures were far from perfect, but more on this later. In this article I will not go into

the development of the Type 94 or indeed its operational deployment as this has been covered in Bruce's Tank piece ahead of this article. What I will attempt to do is firstly review the kit, followed by a brief explanation on the build but more importantly describe the painting process (which tends to put a lot of modellers off tackling Japanese subjects)

WHAT'S IN THE BOX

The Fine Molds kit is moulded in medium green plastic on just three sprues. The detail and fit is a very high standard. A first-class illustration adorns the box top.

The lower hull is moulded as a plastic

tub and has full underside detail present. The road wheels are very well detailed with the road wheel hubs showing superb detail. The drive sprockets are presented in two halves and have detail on both sides of each sprocket, be warned however, as these are very small and delicate, care must be employed when removing them from the sprue. The kit is supplied with full-length flexible vinyl tracks. They have acceptable detail, but as this medium has its limitations they are far from perfect. From my experience the characteristic sag of the Type 94 tracks is almost impossible to achieve in this medium. The upside to this however, is that the tracks can be glued together with normal plastic cement.

The upper hull comes as a separate central superstructure plate. The rivet heads on the hull are accurate in both size and shape. The front hull inspection hatches and front engine compartment doors are also separate parts, this presents the possibility of showing some internal detail but I'm at a loss on where you would find any information on it. The two preserved examples of this type are basically off limits to the public with the one in China being housed in a glass display case (I kid you not), with the other located in Russia. This one can be seen but no photographs can be taken.

The turret is split into two halves



This is an overall view of the underside of the vehicle. Note all the tool placement holes have been filled in and the mudguard supports are in place. The underside offers a wealth of rivets that can be used for the upper body if so desired.



The completed turret assembly is a jewel to look at, with the only problem being that the top plate is ever so slightly too small on the back half edge. The author has remedied this by the addition of Milliput filed and sanded to shape. Note also the small plastic card shelf for the commander figure.



Figure placement - note how the author has moulded the hand on the infantryman to grip the turret



Oh, the horror! The Grenadier Models figure head was pretty awful and was replaced with a Hornet item

In this view the author has modelled the hand onto a Dragon gun as the Grenadier Models gun was far from perfect. Note also the figure has been coated with Tamiya surface primer to show any imperfections in the resin casting.



Another view of the figure placement stage. Note how the author has removed the bit supplied head and replaced it with a hornet item. The top half of the head had been removed in preparation for a Dragon field cap. It almost looks like he is saying "The Chinese takeaway is over there!"



The author has made a few improvements to the rear of the hull, some of which are the addition of various nuts and bolts in addition to the tall light extension tube. Note also how the muffler guard is attached but the muffler is not.

◀ with a separate upper panel. At the rear of the hull is a separate escape hatch. There are separate grab handles for the hatch and the turret mounting in particular features subtle weld seams. The kit is supplied with a small photo etch fret that includes items including the muffler guard and mud guard supports. The markings include seven choices for vehicles operating in China, one operating in Japan and one operating in Burma.

Fine Molds' 1:35 scale Type 94 is a first class effort but if you pay full price it can be a little expensive. I guess it all depends on what you want. If you are happy to do another German tank, then this one will never be on your "to do" list. I tend to prefer a variety of subjects so this kit I liked a great deal. The tank in real life is smaller than my current car (Opel Astra)

so it is tiny in 1:35 scale, which again was attractive to me.

MINI-BUILD

Construction was relatively pain free. The engineering of the parts is virtually flawless and they go together with almost no filler. This, I believe, is a major achievement on Fine Molds' part as riveted hulls are very much prone to gaps on the mating surfaces. The two areas that do need attention however, are the front plate (A1) that attaches to the main hull tub, careful filling of the mating surfaces is required here and when you sand the gaps you will inevitably have to remove most of the rivets. Fine Molds has included a set of rivets on the sprues so don't be tempted to throw these away after you have removed the parts. Remove the rivets from

the sprues and reattach them to the hull when you have filed and sanded these two parts together. The second area that may need attention (I use the word may here as I don't really know if it was me or the kit), when you glue the turret sides together you may find when "dry fitting" the turret top plate (A7), a small gap at the rear of the plate. I did and I still don't know if I sanded the kit part too much or it's a kit flaw, at any rate the top plate was baulked out a tad by applying a small amount of Milliput to the offending area and filing to shape. When this was complete I test fitted the top plate again and worked it so no gaps were in evidence.

The next step was to assemble the bogie units but not glue them to the hull. I tend to do this on complex paint schemes as it just

makes the painting process that much easier. When these units had been assembled, I then tacked them to the hull with Blu Tack. As outlined in my opening comments, I had purchase the Modelkasten track set for this vehicle (SK-38) at a bargain basement price and was keen to get started on them. When opening the box however, I was greeted with the smallest 1:35 individual tracks I had ever seen. This was going to take a lot of time. If you are like me and don't have a whole lot of time, the very thought of this process is a little like hitting your head with a hammer and saying to yourself "gee this is good". At any rate the process was complete after a few sittings. When complete, the tracks are extremely fragile and as I was going to paint and weather them I thought the best course of action



In this view the author demonstrates the differences in the Grenadier Models figure and his modified item



The driver's station requires very small amounts of Tamiya surface putty to fill in cracks around this station



In this overall view the basic layout is being checked for fit. Note on each track end a small track pin dome has been glued into position.



BISON DECALS

BISON DECALS



was to firstly drape them over the bogie units and liquid glue the tracks together. The tracks were still pretty delicate so I decided to superglue each link in place while the completed track assembly was on its side. When consulting my references, I noted the track pin head was evident and these were not included on the Kasten tracks. I turned to my trusty Waldron Sub-Miniature Punch and Die Set and produced a pin head for each track on the outside edge. This whole process was very time consuming, and to be honest, was the major part of the build process. The results however are far better than the kit parts and are well worth it (if you have the time).

I next turned my attention to the mudguards and filled all the locating pin holes as I find generally Fine Molds' suffer from these more than other mainstream manufacturers. The only additions to these were three small bracing strips on the underside of these units. I glued these to the sides of the hull and bent and shaped the muffler guard attaching this when the mudguard were dry. I assembled the muffler and thinned out the exhaust pipe. The headlight was then hollowed out on the sprue using a dental bur and replaced with MV Products' L116 Lens, which is the correct diameter. I usually hollow out and modify smaller parts on the sprue, as it gives me more to hold on to when I'm detailing. The same method was used for the horn, by using the dental bur when this part was on the sprue. At this stage the model was ready for the figure placement stage.

HUMAN TRANSFORMATION

The figures were my main motivation for this project. These were sourced from a Japanese garage figure company called Grenadier Model (set 35004) and, to be honest, they were pretty pricy. I did, however, like the poses and they were designed to fit the Type 94.

When the figures arrived I was more than a little disappointed. Not only were they poorly cast and exhibited pin holes everywhere, they looked barely human in form. The hands were more like animal paws, the faces looked like cartoon characters and the boots were closer to 1:48 scale than 1:35. The only saving grace was the main bodies were generally okay detail wise. In a word, these were rubbish. I would not recommend them to anyone.

The job now was to try and bring these somehow up to an acceptable human form. I replaced



In this view the author illustrates the main paints and cleaning agent for application of the paint.



The mixing of the paint is a very important step. In this case the author is using a small disposable cake tin for the mixing station. Note how he is thinning the paint with Valojo Diluant to achieve very thin coats.



These are the main paints used for the base coat. Mr Colour was applied first, followed by a Tamiya mix.



The author is adding the first coat of brown camouflage to the base coat, you will note the first coat is thin as a result is lighter in colour density that the final result. It is important to use a good quality brush. In this case the author has used a "Windsor and Newton series 7" brush.

BISON 1:35 DECALS

BD35084	US M4A3(76) and M4A3E8 'Easy Eight' ..	£5.86
BD35085	Fiat Ansaldi ..	£5.86
BD35086	British Tanks in North Africa ..	£6.50
BD35087	ISAF in Afghanistan Pt 1, Luchs ..	£7.34
BD35089	British Shermans in Italy ..	£5.00
BD35093	RONA and ROA Markings (POHA/POA) ..	£4.50
BD35094	French 2eme DB Shermans Pt 1 MAA23 versions ..	£5.00
BD35095	French 2eme DB Shermans Pt 2 ..	£5.00
BD35096	20th NZ Armoured Regiment in Italy ..	£5.00
BD35097	Chinese Tank Markings 1930-40s ..	£4.25
BD35098	Cuban Tank Markings ..	£4.25
BD35099	Caucasus on Fire Pt 1 BMP-1; BMP-2 and BTR-80 in Chechnya ..	£5.00
BD35100	Afghan Tanks (12) T-62, BMP-1 and BMP-2 ..	£5.00
BD35101	Soviet Tanks in Afghanistan 1979-88 ..	£6.50
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BD35109	Cromwells and Centaurs in WW2 Pt 2 ..	£4.25
BD35110	East European Stu III - Hungarian, Romanian and Bulgarian markings ..	£6.50
BD35111	Bulgarian PzKpfw IV / Maybach T-4 ..	£6.50
BD35112	Bulgarian Tanks in WW2, BMW R75, Pz 35(P), Pz 38(P), Renault R-35 etc ..	£6.50

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After every application of paint, and sometimes in between applications, it is important to clean the brush with a good quality brush cleaner. This not only avoids the paint drying out on the bristles (which it can and often does) but also prolongs the life of the brush.



In this view, the author demonstrates his method of mixing his paint combinations - a disposable cake tray



The author demonstrates the cleaning process of the brush and in this case he is applying the cleaner on to a disposable tissue.

► the heads and hands with parts from the superb Hornet range. The heads came from their East Asian head set (HH07) and the hands were sourced from set (S02). I cut the Commander's head down to accept a Japanese cap from the Dragon Japanese Infantry set (6044), to which I added a set of Tamiya goggles. A strap was made from some lead foil. I wanted the figures to be more or less part of the vehicle so I paid particular attention to make sure the hands fitted where they should and give them a "grippy" feel. The boots in the infantry were sourced from Dragon Gen 2 figure sets. They offer outstanding detail considering they are moulded in plastic. The Infantryman's helmet is from the superb Master Box Japanese figure set, while the weapons and uniform details came from aforementioned Dragon set.

The figures were coated with Tamiya Surface Primer (from a rattle can) to highlight any imperfections. At this stage, all the little pin holes in the castings became readily visible.

so more filling was necessary. I have painted these figures as a departure from my usual style by firstly undercoating the heads in Humbrol enamels and then using Vallejo for the shading process. On these Japanese subjects my shading was more subdued than usual. I am generally happy with the results but I believe I need more practice to fulfill the potential of this paint.

THAT PESKY FLAG AND STOWAGE

I have always liked flags on vehicles as they always add a bit of colour and theatre to a model. I made this one by firstly mixing Milliput and then rolling it very thinly (with the aid of plenty of round tube). The flag was then left for a few days to dry. I painted it red and masked out the red "meat ball" with Tamiya masking tape. The flag was sprayed white. I removed the masking tape and used a very thin mix of 80% thinner and 20%

black to shade the folds using my airbrush. I had prepared a flagpole by running a saw blade over a round piece of sprue to give it a wood grain texture and then attached it to the flag. Small lead foil straps were attached to the flagpole at this stage the flag was basically complete, but after close examination of the flag itself I found there were some minor imperfections in it. At first I was at a loss on what I should do but remembered with an old painter's trick that entailed disguising the imperfections with extra detail I had noticed on Japanese "asahi" flags of the period that most had hand written inscriptions on them with themes like "for the Emperor". I decided the only quick way around the problem was to add my own slogans to the flag. I painted them using thinned Vallejo black with an OO brush directly onto the flag. To the untrained western eye, my slogans might look acceptable but more than probably translate into something like "your mother has hairy armpits in

which turnips can be placed", or similar gibberish.

I have attached various bed rolls and tarpaulins, which are often seen in reference photos of Japanese Tanks operating in China. I made these with Milliput by firstly rolling a worm made of Milliput and then turning these into a number of spiral pieces and setting it aside. Once dry, I joined them together with wire and filled the centre section again with Milliput to produce the roll. I have used lead foil straps with the buckles coming from the 1:35 scale Aber set. The duffle bag was an old Verlinden item that has been in my spares box for over 20 years and has finally found a place onto one of my models.

PAINTING AND WEATHERING

I had just recently completed my Fine Molds Type 97 and wanted an easy model to build next. This one seemed to fit the bill. I had become intrigued with Japan's Invasion of Manchuria and wanted to depict a vehicle in that theatre of war. Maybe it was the sheer

In this view the author shows the model with a "future" gloss coat applied and with the kit decals applied. You will note the model now has a glossy sheen to it and the colour density is somewhat more intense than the final result.



The model was misted with a very thin coat of the original base coat to bring the camouflage together

scale of the landscape or the remoteness of the conflict, but it just interested me.

I undercoated the entire model with a thin layer of Mr. Hobby Imperial Japanese Army Parched Grass (TC15) from their lacquer range of paints. My reasoning here was, I had success with my Type 97 build and as the saying goes "if it ain't broke, don't fix it". The paint itself is wonderful stuff and goes on very smoothly, delivering a very tough finish. I then sprayed Tamiya XF-49 Khaki lightened with Tamiya XF-2 Flat White mixed in a ratio of 70% thinner, 30% paint using a few passes to achieve a solid base coat. I next "rain streaked" the hull sides with straight XF-63 thinned in an 85% thinner and 15% paint to give the model a very subtle weathering and paint fade effect. I generally like to use this effect on solid colour subjects as it breaks the up the finish of a single colour subjects and makes them a little more interesting to look at.

As with my Type 97, I decided to brush paint the brown and green colours directly onto the Khaki base coat. I came up with a mix for the brown that was roughly 10% Vallejo 031 Red and 90% Vallejo 672 Brown. I then added about two drops of Vallejo Diluant or thinner so the mix was relative thin. I applied the brown with a No. 2 brush making sure to firstly apply the colours thinly and to go over the application to avoid any brush marks.

The most important thing I can tell you here is to clean your brush after each application of paint. If you don't, you will get little dry bits of paint coming out on your follow up coats. The first coat of paint will be fairly translucent but do not be alarmed; you will need to go over the brown areas of paint at least three times for the colours to become opaque. Allow each coat of paint at least a few hours drying time before the follow up coat. I must say, I had a lot of fun applying the paint by brush and it reminded me a lot of my modelling days when I was a boy. The green camouflage was Vallejo "B23" and two drops of Vallejo Diluant. The application was the same process as the brown. I coated the entire model with a coating of Future floor polish, which resulted in a very fine glossy ▶

A close up view of the figures and their positions. Note how the author has modified the hand of the figures to grip the rifle and tank.



A close up view of the stowage. Note how the author has added straps from lead foil to avoid the floating look and the thinned exhaust pipe



Close up of running gear.





A close up view of the stowage. Note how the author has added straps from lead foil to avoid the floating lock and the thinned exhaust pipe.



The worn areas of the road wheels were emphasised in silver to highlight the contact points between the road wheels and tracks.



A good view of the tool stowage note how the tools have been attached with the aid of tin foil straps and Aber buckles.



A view of the rear stowage and completed bucket.



The hand made and pained flag



The flag and figures add context and drama to the vehicle.

► smooth finish. The kit decals were then applied for a Manchurian based vehicle

I then sprayed them and the model with Vallejo 520 Matt Varnish thinned with 50% tap water to produce a dead flat finish. The model looked a little too harsh for my taste so I used the same mix of Tamiya XF-49 (Khaki) lightened with Tamiya XF-2 (White) I started with, but thinned down even further with a ratio of about 90% thinner to 10% paint. This mix was "misted" on in slow and deliberate coatings with most on the running gear and less toward the top. The tracks were mist coated with a mix of 90% thinner and 10% Tamiya flat black. The last step was to apply small amounts of mud from the Tamiya "Mud Weathering Stick" with the aid of a tooth pick to the centre of each track link and a little on the back. I then hand painted the rubber portion of the road wheels and attached the tracks. On all points of contact pva glue was applied to give a good solid bond. The entire lower hull was then given an oil wash with firstly burnt amber and then lampblack. On both occasions I have used Zippo lighter fluid as a mixing agent as it dries more or less flat. The road wheels were then lightly dry brushed with a mix of Humbrol white and wood brown with a greater leaning toward white. When this was done, a very thin "glaze" of straight

Tamiya XF-59 Desert Yellow in a mix of 10% paint 90% thinner was applied to the lower

hull in slow and deliberate stages. This glaze can be controlled and is most effective for taking the "hard" edge off the dry brushing the last step of the weathering process was the chipping process, sometimes described as micro chipping. My main aim here was to be subtle and have all the chips in scale.

The last part of the model was to attach the flag and stowage; all these were painted first before attaching them to the model. At this stage of the build I was looking at the model and thought "this needs something extra". I was at our local park watching my son perfect his latest BMX trick when I notice a parked car. The car had brown autumn leaves covering one side of the body work. This was the look I was after. On returning home, I placed about 30 to 40 brown birch leaves from the Plus Models range of pre cut leaf range (no 282). The model was now complete.

SELF-CRITICISM

I am relatively pleased with this model. The hand painting of the camouflage colours was a lot of fun for me. I really did not think it was possible to get the kind of finish I achieved and I think a good deal of the credit should go down to the paint. The Vallejo range of paints is quite simply, superb. The figures are a bit of a disappointment. I like the poses but the clean up and modification of these was a major disappointment. With all honesty, I cannot recommend these figures at all, in a word they are rubbish

and should best be avoided. The painting on the figures was a departure from my usual style and while I'm generally pleased with the results I believe I need more practice with this. The flag at the rear of the vehicle looks good from a distance, but it leaves a little to be desired under high magnification (pretty much like me really!). I could have fixed this but I just ran out of puff to be honest and was keen to move on.

CONCLUSION

The kit has a few shortcomings, the main one being the tracks. None of the flaws are earth shattering nor overly hard to fix. I would recommend you try a Japanese tank for your next build as they offer the modeller a chance to be a little different. Hard edge paint schemes may turn a few of you off, but with care and a little patience good results can be achieved. The key here is go slowly and have fun. ■

Acknowledgements

I would like to offer my sincere thanks to Stan Spooner who pushed me to complete the model, and to Bruce Culver for his very informative "Think Tank" piece ahead of this article. Without their help, the model would still be sitting in my "to do" pile. Thanks guys!

Modelspec

Fine Molds 1:35 Type 94 Tankette. Kit No. 35137

Accessories

Model Kaslen 1:35 scale Workable Type 97 Track Links. Item No. SK-58.
Grandt Line Rivets .043 Round,
Plus Models Birch Leaves No 282,
MV Products 116 links,
Grenade Model (set 35004) figure sel

Paints Used

Tamiya XF-49 Khaki, Tamiya XF-2 White, Tamiya XF-1 Black, Tamiya XF-59 Desert Earth, Tamiya XF-59 Desert Yellow, Humbrol Metal Coat "27004" Gun metal, Humbrol Grey "Mel 53", Humbrol Matt White "34" Humbrol Wood Brown "62", Vallejo Silver "848", Vallejo Brown "872", Vallejo Red "037", Vallejo Green "944", Vallejo Military Green "975", Vallejo Matt Varnish "520", Vallejo Diluant Thinner.

Weathering Materials

Tamiya Weathering stick item "87081", Deco Art Light Earth Stucco "as14", Zippo Lighter Fluid, Windsor and Newton Burnt Umber, Windsor and Newton Land Black.

Tools

Waldron Sub-Miniature Punch and Die Set, Small Shop Brass Assisi Roller set Mk II, Small Shop Hold and Fold G-Tool, Jo Sonjas Brush /Soap and Conditioner.

References

Ground Power 1996 Japanese Combat Vehicles of WWII Osprey Publishing Japanese Tanks 1937-45 ISBN 978-1-84603-991-8
Ground Power Aug 2009 ISBN 9410135010897 Osprey Publishing The Japanese Army 1942-45 ISBN 1-84176-354-3
Imperial Japanese Army and Navy Uniforms and Equipment ISBN 4-87090-000-2
Concord Publications Tanks Battles of the Pacific War 1941-1945 ISBN 942-361-607-4
Concord Publications Warriors of Imperial Japan ISBN 962-361-171-4
Tank Power Vol 2, 4 and 5 by AJ press

Excellent detail; precise fit; easy build.

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Rating 

Fine Molds' 1:35 scale kit is small but beautifully formed!

Here is an idea of the true size of the model!



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The World at War

Originally broadcast in 1973 and narrated by Sir Laurence Olivier, 'The World at War' was produced by Thames Television over a four-year period. The original 26-part documentary series interviewed major members of the Allied and Axis campaigns, civilian eyewitnesses, enlisted men, officers and politicians and

made use of the rare colour film footage to investigate the events surrounding World War 2 to create what is widely agreed to be the definitive history of World War II. The production costs were, at the time, record-breaking in the UK. In the years since its initial broadcast, this BAFTA and Emmy award-winning series has had many imitators but 'The World at War'

remains one of the most revered documentaries ever made.

This jewel in the nation's crown has now spent two years undergoing a comprehensive restoration process whereby each frame has been restored individually and the audio reconfigured and upgraded. Bearing in mind that each episode has averaged over 140,000 fixes, more

than 3.6million improvements have been made across the series! And, on 20th September 2010 the newly restored series became available to buy on Blu-Ray and DVD.

With 2010 seeing many anniversaries of World War II events, it seems only fitting that this award-winning series is being re-launched to coincide with the nation's celebrations.



All images © 1973 Thames Television Ltd. Courtesy of FremantleMedia Enterprises

Competition

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Model Military International, in conjunction with FremantleMedia are offering readers the chance to win a DVD boxed set of the 'World at War' remastered 11 disk collection, with TWO complete sets available!

What you have to do

Answer the following question, write your answer on a POSTCARD, together with your name, address and a contact telephone number, and send it to the ADH Publishing office, titled 'MMI World at War Competition' to arrive no later than 31 December 2010. All correct entries will go into a draw and the first two entries drawn will win a set of DVDs.

Competition Question

Over how long a period did it take Thames Television to produce the original 'World at War' series?

Competition rules:
Usual terms and conditions apply. Only one entry per household. No purchase necessary. The prize awarded is final and there is no cash alternative. Closing date for entries is 31 DECEMBER 2010. Winners will be notified via the results section in the January issue of Model Military International. FremantleMedia and ADH Publishing and their families are not permitted to enter.

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STANDARD CAMOUFLAGE COLOURS FOR MIDDLE EAST

PART EIGHT - FORD INDIA PATTERN MK.II RECONNAISSANCE CAR

William Marshall continues his analysis of an important source document describing the contentious camouflage colours used by British and Commonwealth military vehicles during the WWII campaign for the Middle East and North Africa. In Part Eight, William describes the application of Caunter camouflage to a Ford India Pattern MK II Reconnaissance Car.



(Above) A photograph of a 10 Indian Division IP Carrier in Caunter colours.

(Below) A profile of a 10th Indian Division IP Carrier called "Bengal Police II".

Built on a Ford 4x4 truck chassis imported from Canada, some colourful schemes were seen on the Ford India Pattern Mk.II Reconnaissance Car. These India pattern reconnaissance vehicle saw fairly widespread use in the Middle East and India. Some photos exist showing full markings. The 10th Indian Division made use of these vehicles in North Africa. ■

British Standard Colours



No. 34
Slate



No. 25
Silver Grey



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36117 Sherman Firefly Mk. II Half 1/35 (Dragon)



36134 Sherman Firefly Mk. II Half track 1/35 (Dragon)



36130 M-113A1 NBC survival 1/35 (Trumpeter)



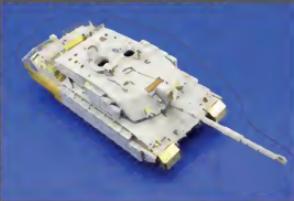
36125 Challenger 2 Enhanced armour slot 1/35 (Trumpeter)



36126 Challenger 2 Enhanced armour 1/35 (Trumpeter)



36125 Challenger 2 Enhanced armour slot 1/35 (Trumpeter)



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"THE ENEMY IS TO THE RIGHT!"

Takahiro Sumitomo presents a diorama featuring Tamiya's 1:35 scale BT-7 Model 1935.

Tamiya's 1:35 scale BT-7 Model 1935 is a beautiful model featuring superb fit, clever engineering and useful options. It is also easy to build.

The kit comprises 213 parts in olive green plastic, photo-etched parts for the rear deck screen and smaller details, a length of metal chain, eight clear plastic parts and

a number of polythene caps.

One of the highlights of Tamiya's BT-7 is its link and length tracks, permitting realistic drape of the top run over the road wheels. These are the early long-pitch style as seen on early BT-7s and the BT-5.

The mesh cover for the engine vent is also very clever. It comes with a plastic jig to form the photo-

etched grille into an appropriately curved shape.

The figures are also noteworthy. Both the poses and the moulding are excellent, and they are worth using straight from the box.

Takahiro decided he wanted to display the model in a dynamic pose, running down an incline.

The infantry figures were sourced from Master Box. The

weighting and movement of the soldier who has been shot is extremely well expressed. The tank Commander is from Zvezda.

The base colour was a custom green shade mixed from Gaia lacquer paints.

The first weathering wash was raw umber using Holbein Oil Color; with a second wash using Mig's Abteilung Oil Colors Faded Green. ■

Items Used

Tamiya 1:35 BT-7 Model 1935, Kit No. 35309
Zvezda 3504 Soviet Tank Crew - Tank Commander
Master Box MB3523 - Frontier Fight of Summer 1941

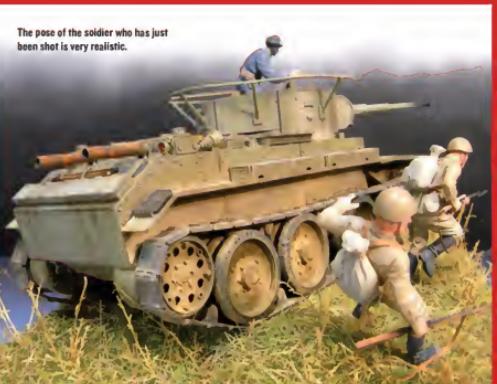
Tamiya's 1:35 scale BT-7 Model 1937 is an instant classic – beautifully detailed, innovative and great to build.



The title of this impressive display is
"The Enemy is on the Right".



The pose of the soldier who has just
been shot is very realistic.



The Tank Commander is a Zvezda figure.



The first weathering wash was raw umber using Holbein Oil Color;
with a second wash using Mig's Abteilung Oil Colors Faded Green.



Facial expressions really
help convey the story too.





Luke Pitt examines the most recent in GreatWall Hobby's latest entry in the German sWS family - the sWS Gepanzerte Ausfuehrung.

CARGO SCHLEPPER

The sWS was effectively the end of the line for German halftrack development. The halftrack by this time had reached a technological dead end and would soon be overtaken by fully tracked armoured vehicles. The design was well suited for pulling but was dangerously slow.

This armoured cab version has always appealed to me as an attractive vehicle.

The 1:35 scale German sWS Gepanzerte Ausfuehrung is the fourth incarnation of GreatWall Hobby's sWS family. Essentially, it combines the running gear of the second, general cargo version, with the armoured cab and tray from the third version

(without the 3.7 Flak 43). The component parts of this kit have been reviewed previously (see issue 51, page 51) so I will not cover what has already been said. From my perspective, the kit just oozes quality from the very thin mouldings of the armoured cab to the very well detailed wheels and tyres. In this version, the tray has not been modified and, as a result, the three contact points for the Flak 43 are still present. From an accuracy point of view the kit scores very highly. However. The jury is still out regarding the mesh screens at the rear. Some have indicated that the mesh was in fact an egg crate grill but with a few photos of the vehicle in evidence, there is no conclusive

proof in this regard.

This is an outstanding kit with few, if any, flaws. It is certainly the best kit of this type available in any scale and comes highly recommended. By the way, when doing research for this review I came across a very helpful website at www.pietvanhees.nl/sws/ - well worth a visit.

Highly Recommended. ■



Camouflage diagrams are printed on the back of the box in full colour.



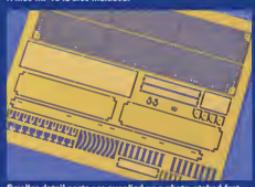
A new style of open road wheels is included with this release.



The tyres are supplied in three sections each.



A nice MP40 is also included.



Smaller detail parts are supplied on a photo-etched fret.



GreatWall's prolific release schedule includes a 1:35 German 3.7cm Flak 43 with SD.AH 58 Trailer. Luke Pitt takes a look at what is in the box.

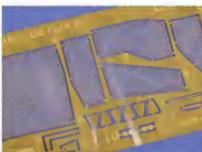
PLASTIC FLAK

GreatWall Hobby has made quite a name for itself over its relatively short history some breathtaking kits in the last year or so, and this one is no exception.

GreatWall Hobby's 1:35 scale German 3.7cm Flak 43 with SD.AH 58 Trailer is provided on six sprues. Most of the sprues are lifted from kits that been released previously. The moulding quality on all of the parts is outstanding being remarkably thin. In my opinion, if you replace this shield with photo-etch you would have

more money than sense. It has no injector marks in visible positions and looks fantastic straight from the box. I really wish other manufacturers would look at this moulding and learn from it. The one-piece plastic barrel will suit the vast majority of modelers as it is hollowed out with dimples on the flash suppressor that can be easily drilled out.

The kit comes complete with the Type 58 trailer and includes some very well detailed wheels and tyres, complete with an outstanding tread pattern. My only criticism here is the tyres themselves seem to be too wide,

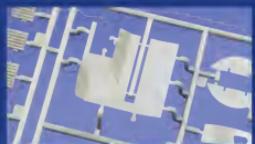


The photo-etched shell basket is very impressive.
but these can easily be thinned by sanding the inner surface of the mating surfaces.

The last item in this kit is a very well done photo-etched shell basket.

The instructions also rate a mention as they are both clear and very well illustrated.

This is a very impressive model and comes highly recommended. ■



The plastic gun shield is impressively thin.



The injection-moulded muzzle is hollowed out and features dimples representing the small perforations.



The trailer's wheels are well done.

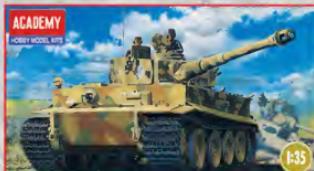


Trailer parts are provided on a separate sprue.

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I have been working on modern subjects for a while now, as seen in the pages of previous editions of MM. When I was offered this kit I decided to build it as soon as I laid eyes on it, largely because it was such a different subject.

The actual construction of the kit was very simple indeed, though it had to be done in sub assemblies for ease of painting some of the parts.

The wheels are the first task. Once these are built they have to be painted and weathered before sealing them into that hulk of a body. The wheels were initially painted Tamiya acrylic XF-60 Dark Yellow using my new Badger Velocity airbrush. Straying from the paint guide, I masked up a splinter

Pigment Primer Red, and lastly a dark brown wash also from the Mig range. The surface that makes contact with the tracks was painted in silver from Citadel paints with a light black wash over the top. The wheel assemblies were then glued in place and sealed inside the body.

The body comes supplied as two perfectly fitting parts. The additional details including the rail connectors, doors, hinges and vents all went together quite quickly and easily. After everything was together, I sprayed the entire body Tamiya acrylic XF-60 Dark Yellow using my new Badger Velocity airbrush. Straying from the paint guide, I masked up a splinter

pattern and sprayed a disruptive coat of Gunze acrylic HSB Interior Green, as I wanted to try to depict a wagon as it may have appeared if it was used late in the war. Once all was dry, I removed the masking tape to reveal what I thought was a great effect.

I decided to paint some parts in Primer Red just to add a little more variety, more for visual impact than accuracy. Mig Primer Red was again used and sealed with Mig Pigment Fixer. Lastly, I applied a pin wash of Mig Brown over detail areas such as the weld beads, doors and hinges just to give more life to the beast.

The rail connectors also needed to be painted, so I first gave them

a heavy black wash followed by a dark brown wash, and then on the flat surfaces buffed them with graphite powder and a dry brush of silver on the sprung areas.

The decals were now applied per the kit's guide. These went on well without any silvering or breaking and snuggled down nicely thanks to a brushed coat of Gunze Mr Mark Softer solution, a great product.

Now for the two turrets. These are very well detailed sub-assemblies straight from the box with a decent interior. I only used the interior for one turret though, as the other was destined to have a figure in the cupola, so why go to the trouble? The interior that was built was initially sprayed white ▶

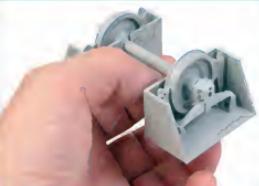
ROLLING SHOCK!

Andrew Judson builds Trumpeter's big 1:35 scale example of armoured rolling stock - the Panzerjäger Triebwagen.



Trumpeter's 1:35 scale Panzerjäger Triebwagen S1 is an interesting and unique subject.

The big hull is supplied in two impressive and perfectly fitting parts.



The inclusion of a full-length base is a nice touch.



The wheels fit snugly in the bottom of the hull.

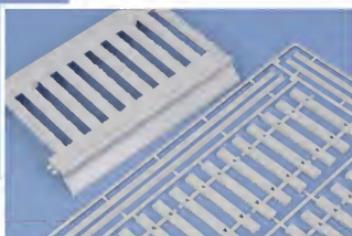


The plastic turret armour is bevelled at the edges for a thin appearance. These were used instead of the photo-etched parts.



Tamiya XF-8 Primer red was also used to paint the vents.

Two frets of photo-etched parts offer details plus alternative metal turret armour.



Markings are provided for a single fictitious wagon.

The inclusion of a full-length base is a nice touch.



The wheels were initially painted Tamiya acrylic XF-8 Hull Red followed by a wet mix of Mig Pigment Primer Red, and lastly a dark brown wash also from the Mig range.



Basic colours are Tamiya XF-80 Dark Yellow and Gunze H58 Interior Green.

followed by a black wash. The gun breech was detail painted in various metallic shades. The floor was finished in Primer Red with a dirty brown wash. Once sealed up, even with all hatches open, not much can really be seen, although I think the effort was still worth it.

Externally, both turrets were sprayed in Tamiya XF-59 Dark Yellow and then one received the splinter pattern, the other, a faded squiggle pattern as if to show that one turret may have been acquired from a damaged tank and not refinished. The barrel on one is done in Dark Grey with a green flash suppressor, the other in Dark Yellow with a Red Primer suppressor. Again, this is for visual effect and probably not accurate. Both turrets also received the brown wash to highlight details.

With everything pretty much done, now was the fun part - weathering. I had a hard time deciding on how I would go about this. In the end I took a different approach compared to how I would normally do this and used oil paint instead of pigments. Applying small dots of Mig Abteilung 502 Buff in areas where water and dirt would run, I then using a large flat dry brush, streaked it in a downwards motion until I had the desired effect of dirty streaks down the side of both the turrets and body. I used the same product for the upper surfaces, but more of it to create a faded surface area. Lastly, with my own mix of a dirty dark brown, using a fine brush I applied some chipping around hard

edges, and then blended these with the still drying oils. I was quite happy with the end result.

The base is included in the kit. It was built per the instructions and then painted with a brown mix. Weathering comprised a wash of Mig Europe Dust and some rust effects with pigments on the tracks. A red-brown wash was applied onto the sleepers and this finished it all off nicely. The wagon was then glued onto the base with a strong two-part epoxy glue, and for a final finishing effect, a damaged barrel was placed onto the base.

I wasn't originally planning to use figures with the Triebwagen, but I eventually decided that they would lend a sense of scale to this very big piece of rolling stock.

The figures were made up from Warrior, New World Miniatures and Wolf parts, and they all tied in well together. They were all painted using a mixture of Tamiya and Citadel acrylics with various camouflage uniforms for an added late war feel. I wanted the crew to be in relaxed poses, though alerted to something in the distance.

I really enjoyed building Trumpeter's 1:35 Panzerjäger Triebwagen 51, and along the way I learnt some great new techniques. ■

Acknowledgements

Thanks to J.B. Wholesalers for the sample www.jbwholesalers.com



A red-brown wash was applied to the painted parts. Chipping around hard edges was added to lend some variety and interest. Pale streaks were applied on the hull sides.

The front doors were painted red.



Modelspec

Trumpeter 1:35 Panzerjäger Triebwagen 51 (01516)

Paints and Finishing Products

Tamiya Acrylics: XF-1 Flat Black; XF-2 Flat White; XF-9 Hull Red; XF-60 Dark Yellow.
Guanze acrylic HS8 Interior Green. Mig Pigments.

Easy construction; good fit; includes base;

impressive and interesting subject

No interior for the hull.

Available from

Imported into the UK by Pocketbond Ltd, available from good model shops.

Rating

The crew lends a sense of scale to this big piece of rolling stock.



03174 1:72 8,8 cm Flak 36 (Fire Director 40, Sd.Ah. 202 & 52)



Fire Star

1:72 8,8 cm Flak 36 (Fire Director 40, Sd.Ah. 202 & 52)

03174

The 8.8cm Flak was a World War II German anti-aircraft gun that also had a formidable reputation as an anti-tank weapon. Three versions were developed - the Flak 18, 36 and 37 - all of which saw service on every wartime front. Typically there were up to 11,000 guns operational at any one time and these formed the backbone of the air defences against Allied bombing raids.

The 8.8cm Flak had a maximum vertical ceiling of 10.6 km, a range of 14.8km and could fire between 15 and 20 rounds per minute.

This detailed model kit can be built in either firing or travelling positions and includes the Sd. Ah.202 trailer and the Fire Director 40 fire control unit. While the gun itself has folding outriggers and elevates and traverses through 360°.

Model-details:

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Build Your Dream!



JAGDPANTHER WITH ZIMMERIT

Graham Tetley reviews and builds Dragon's new 1:35 scale Early Production Jagdpanther.

Dragon's latest incarnation of the Jagdpanther comprises just under 600 parts, including clear parts for the periscopes, one etched brass fret containing the engine screens, two lengths of DS Tracks, two lengths of braided metal wire, along with six decal and painting options for Panzerjäger-Abteilung 654 machines from France, 1944.

The kit itself has essentially the same contents as the earlier GI release. The big difference is that the main hull parts, rear plate, rear superstructure, stowage boxes, fenders and Kugelblende now come on a new sprue with some simply delightful moulded on zimmerit.

ZIMMERIT

Dragon's Zimmerit pattern represents the proper cross-hatch style applied at the MIAG factory and is seen on Jagdpanthers from Normandy through to the end of 1944. The Zimmerit itself is very finely done and is not uniform in its texture - it does look authentic. The

only possible criticism is that there is no chipping depicted, or any other areas where the Zimmerit has fallen off. This is a minor point though.

KIT CONTENTS

If you have built a Dragon Panther G or the earlier Jagdpanther then this kit will seem familiar to you.

There are a lot of spare parts, just over 130 by my count, which your Tamiya Panthers will be thankful for!

All parts are flash free and crisply moulded and the fit of all parts is generally very good. Gone are the hard plastic 'Magic Tracks', an omission that I wish Dragon would rectify, but the DS tracks themselves are nicely detailed and will suffice for many. There are also four smaller sprues that contain 16 links with separate guide horns that are included for the rear track racks. As a nice touch, each small track sprue contains two sizes of minute wingnuts, five of each and 40 in all.

There are separate parts for

the engine cooling system to fill the spaces underneath the engine screens.

The tools come with moulded on clasps as well as a seven part jack. The correct exhaust system is present with lovely slide-moulded exhaust ends.

SUSPENSION

The torsion bar units are separate parts and internal torsion bar details are given. The idler wheel swing-arm is also separate, which will allow for some tensioning of the DS tracks if needed.

The drive sprockets feature the late-style hubcap, while the idler wheels are in four parts including separate outer rims. The standard rubber-tired road wheels feature 32 rim bolts and lovely crisp rim detail.

HULL

Both upper and lower hull parts have had a Zimmerit pattern added to their flanks, with the bow plate a separate zim-coated insert. The sponsor covers are

separate parts with fine detail that simply attach to the lip on the lower hull. All areas where the tool racks go have been correctly left clear of zimmerit, and separate mounting frames for the tools and spare track links are provided. The spare track racks come with small holes for the separate L-shaped holding pins but there are assembly problems - read on for a full explanation. Two styles of slide-moulded tow cable loops are provided, as well as the end loops for the thinner track changing cable.

The gun recess is the earlier, low profile, type and the 8.8cm L/71 gun comes with optional barrels. A lovely, slide-moulded, muzzle brake finishes the gun off.

The decals are in perfect register and, as previously mentioned, give you six vehicles from Schwer Heeres Panzerjäger-Abteilung 654 to choose from.

CONSTRUCTION

It is great to know what is in a kit, but it is even better to know how



Engine fan assembly.



The hull interior.



Road wheels following assembly.



Exhaust and jack, close-up.



Drive sprocket in place.



The inner transmission.



Suspension detail.



Note the gap between the upper and lower hull. Check the text to see how this may be avoided!

Close-up view of the headlight.

Tool stowage.

The spare track rack.



Engine deck and mesh.

Gun cleaning rod.

More tool stowage.

The rear hull plate.



Gun mantlet and glacis.

Hull interior parts.

Close up of the magic tracks.

Note how the tracks do not fit snugly straight from the box.

it goes together. What I aim to do here is to point out to you any construction hints and instruction bloopers. I am not going to point out accuracy issues as this is a simple "what's in the box and if I built it again what would I do differently" look.

I started off by what I find to be the most tedious part of assembly - the running gear. Dragon gives you lots of lovely parts to replicate the torsion bar suspension but I left these parts off on my kit. They are nice, but you can't see them when the vehicle is closed up.

As for the torsion bars themselves, their fit to the hull is perfect. Little pins ensure that everything stays level, but removal of these pins will deliver a poseable suspension.

Next, I would recommend that you get the hull together. By that I mean the upper and lower hull halves, superstructure rear plate B3, sponson fillers parts N2 & N3 as well as the rear plate BL. The reason for this is that I followed the instructions to the letter and ended up with a gap where the front upper & lower glacis plates meet - see the photos. The upper hull fits perfectly to the rear plate and the sponsons so the fault must be with the placement of part B7. The easy solution would have been to ignore Step 2

in the instructions and leave the installation of part B7 (the textured lower glacis plate) until the hull halves are firmly attached. You will still have a small gap, but not as noticeable.

I should point out that Dragon gives you all of the engine hatches and superstructure roof as separate parts. You can build all of these as sub-assemblies and join it all together later as the fit of these parts is perfect. The engine fan parts can be push-fit into place with hull fully together (due to the kit design) so painting is made easier.

The main issue that I had with the kit was in Step II where you add the spare track to the track racks C39. Nothing fits together without modification.

Firstly you need to thin down every one of the lowermost mounts on part C39. These are the brackets that the spare tracks sit on. Secondly, it is also useful to widen the guide teeth holes in the track parts that fit onto C39. However, once you get the track links to fit, you need to perform some more surgery. To get the retaining pins parts A3 to fit the two holes in the 'U' brackets

you have to carve a groove into the track links so that the pins can fit snugly.

None of this is too noticeable on the finished item, but it

was a little frustrating.

I recommend that you fit the Schürzen rails parts T17 and T18 before you attach the completed tool racks to the hull. The foremost rack with the shovel does foul the rails although Dragon do point this out. A notable omission is the Schürzen plates. The rails on either side of the superstructure side plates are there, as are the hooks. Dragon used to provide them in their earlier kits and their omission in this is somewhat strange.

I must say that I was not impressed with the metal cable provided, as I had to drill out the plastic loops to get the cable to fit. Its gauge is slightly too wide for the holes in the tow loops. As for the smaller cable I found it useless as it is too springy to be able to be wound around the holder, part C15. A fabric replacement will be better.

When it came to the DS Tracks I found that they do not fit snugly to the drive sprocket. It appears that the guide tooth holes are not wide enough to fit the plastic sprocket teeth, and the tracks are about as tight as the suspension will stand. It would be a chore to widen the holes in the DS tracks, so thinning the plastic teeth may be better.

INSTRUCTION ISSUES

A few points to look out for:

- 1) In Step 1 beware of the part numbering as on the right side the foremost torsion bar is numbered as E2. Part E2 doesn't

fit so I used a spare cut from the sprues - sorry, I didn't note the part number that I did use.

2) In Step 6 there is no need to attach part N30.

3) In step 14 the scissors periscope assembly has been drawn incorrectly as it is not clear how part N18 joins to N20 and N21. Look at the arrowed subsection on the bottom right, as this drawing shows it correctly assembled.

4) In Step 17 you attach the tow cables, but Dragon does not tell you how long you need each cable to be. 155mm will you do just fine.

CONCLUSION

The Zimmerit is the real standout feature of this kit and it has been expertly rendered, giving us an almost perfect in-the-box Jagdpanther for a specific unit within a particular timeframe.

The missing Schürzen is a puzzle, and the issues with the spare tracks were frustrating. My own personal choice would be to replace the DS Tracks anyway as I prefer individual links. The gap in the hull front is probably my error, so I can't criticise the kit for that.

Would I part with cash to buy another? Definitely!

Highly Recommended. ■

Thanks to The Hobby Company for the sample
www.hobbyco.net



The rear tool clamp hold.



DOPO VOI

The Editor transforms Tamiya's 1:48 scale Sherman Firefly IC into the stretched-hull VC using a multimedia conversion from Fighting 48th!

There is no doubt that the M4 Sherman was a modern miracle of mass production and an important factor in the Allied victory in WWII. Even so, the 75mm main armament of early to mid-production Shermans was unable to penetrate the armour of German Panther and Tiger tanks at standard combat ranges.

Although the idea was initially resisted, two determined British Officers fought to adapt the powerful 17 pdr anti-tank gun to the turret of the Sherman tank. The British 17 pdr was one of the most effective anti-tank guns of the entire war, even outperforming the 88mm KwK 36 gun of the Tiger I and the Panther's long-barrelled KwK 42 75mm. The only problem

was squeezing the 17 pdr gun, with its big breech and unwieldy recoil system, into the close confines of the Sherman turret.

After the project was eventually handed over to the Department of Tank Design, a number of important modifications were made. The recoil system of the gun was completely redesigned, the block of the gun cradle was shortened and the entire breech was rotated 90 degrees to allow for left-handed loading. A new barrel and mantlet were also devised.

On the tank itself, a new loader's hatch was added to the turret, the radio operator's position was deleted to store additional 17 pdr ammunition (this also meant that the hull machine gun was

removed), and the radio was relocated to an extended armoured bustle at the back of the turret.

The new 17 pdr Sherman was identified by the addition of the letter "C" to the hull classification. Therefore, the British version of the M4, the Sherman I, became the Sherman IC when fitted with the 17 pdr turret; the composite hull M4 Sherman became the Sherman IC Hybrid; and the stretched-hull M4A4 became the Sherman VC.

There is no evidence that the 17 pdr Sherman was ever officially called Firefly during wartime, although this name and also "Mayfly" were sometimes used at unit level.

More than 2,100 Sherman Fireflies were converted by the time production ended in May 1945.

A SHERMAN VC IN 1:48 SCALE

Tamiya released a 1:48 scale Sherman IC in 2006 as part of its push into medium-sized military vehicles. This is a generally accurate kit that is a pleasure to build. The only real shortcomings are the recessed weld beads and the lack of sponson covers above the tracks.

Fighting 48th! (yes, the exclamation mark is part of the brand name) specialises in 1:48 scale conversions and accessories. Their debut conversion was a 1:48 scale Sherman V / M4A4 Conversion Set, released back in late 2006.

This set may be used to create a 1:48 scale 75mm equipped British Sherman V or an M4A4; or a stretched-hull Sherman Mk.VC



The debut conversion from Fighting 48th! was a Sherman V / M4A4 in resin and photo-etch.



Surface detail is excellent, with weld beads and structural features cast in place.



The transmission cover is the bolted three-section version.



A full hull replacement is offered, including sponson covers and an engine bulkhead.



Even the bottom of the hull is exquisitely detailed. Fit is excellent too.



Smaller parts include track extension lengths, tow hook and mount, rear stowage bin, lifting points and more.

Firefly fitted with the potent 17 pdr gun. If you are building a standard (75mm) Sherman V or M4A4 you should ideally use Tamiya's M4A1 Sherman. In the case of a Firefly VC, you will need the Tamiya Sherman Firefly IC as the base kit.

Fighting 48th's Sherman V / M4A4 Conversion comprises 29 parts in grey resin plus a large photo-etched fret.

The resin parts are beautifully cast. I only found two pinholes in the entire set, and these were on smaller parts that were easily repaired. The focus of the conversion is the replacement of the upper and lower hull parts. These are cast as one piece each, and feature superior detail and engineering compared to the Tamiya hull parts.

The upper hull is cast with sponson floors in place. Surface texture is subtle and convincing, supplemented with raised weld beads where appropriate. The engine deck is very impressive, with all the features of the M4A4 present and even including tiny hollowed out lifting handles cast

in place.

The one-piece lower hull is cast with the transmission cover and the rear hull detail. The bottom of the hull replicates the detail of the M4A4/Sherman V. The rear bulkhead for the fighting compartment has also been cast in place.

Both hull parts are supplied almost ready to use. There is only a small pour stub on the top of the fighting compartment firewall, and a tiny amount of resin waste to trim and sand.

Smaller resin parts include extra track lengths to extend the track run of the long hull Sherman V / M4A4, plus exhausts, periscopes, hull lifting eyes, tow bar and fittings, angled towing eyes for the rear hull, a large rear hull bin and 17 pdr rounds.

The photo-etched fret provides a wealth of extra detail including mudguard mounting strips, grouser box grilles, light brush guards, smoke emitter boxes, periscope guards, a big lid for the rear hull bin, rear engine grille, spare track link brackets, turret sights and

more. Photo-etched replacements for the kit bogie track skids are included instead.

Instructions comprise detailed text and construction diagrams over four pages. These are generally very good, I recommend thoroughly reading the text before starting construction. The only area of the instructions that could be better covered is the location and final shapes of the "various turret sights, mounts etc".

If you are building a Sherman Firefly VC using the Tamiya Firefly IC kit (which I suspect most modellers will), you will need to source some additional tools to replace those moulded onto the Tamiya kit hull. Fighting 48th suggests that you use tools from Tamiya's M4A1 (which has a separate On Vehicle Equipment sprue), but Hauler also offers a British tool set if you do not wish to cannibalise another Sherman kit.

Check your references for the style of road wheel used too, as the Tamiya Sherman IC only offers the open spoke style wheels.

Fighting 48th! also offers a

direct vision M4A4 / Sherman V conversion as item no. FF005.

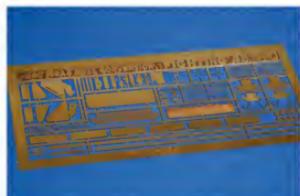
A PROMISING START

The Firefly VC is one of my favourite vehicles, so I could not resist starting it straight away.

The fit is generally excellent, and if you follow the instructions you should have no problems.

I could not find any photos of Firefly VCs with open-spoke road wheels, so I took the solid (pressed) wheels from the Tamiya M4A1 for this project. The outer faces of Tamiya's pressed road wheels are good, but there is no detail on the insides of the wheels. Resin replacements with full detail on both the front and the back are available from a number of sources, including Toro and MR Modelbau.

The supplementary resin track sections fit well and look great. I started assembly of the tracks with the four individual links on the drive sprocket, and worked backwards onto the lower run, then up and around the idler wheel, finishing off with the long ▶



The photo-etched fret provides a wealth of detail. This fret was also released as an update set in its own right.



The raised reinforcement channel in the front mudguard was embossed with the rounded tip of Mission Models' Multi-Tool (Small).



A number of the photo-etched parts require some tricky folding. The Multi-Tool was also very helpful in this regard.



The rear engine screen and smoke dischargers enhance the lower rear hull.



Tamiya's suspension is added to Fighting 48th's lengthened hull.



White Milliput was used to create wide, messy weld marks for the extra glacis armour plates.



The fire extinguisher bottles are from Hauler. I lost one of the resin rear lifting hooks so I scratch built a new base from scrap plastic.



Cast texture was applied to the turret using Tamiya Liquid Surface Primer, brushed on then stippled, shaped and toned-down as required with Tamiya Extra Thin Liquid Cement.



Note the lovely delicate detail parts for the vane sight and scope guards. The small sections of copper on the turret side represent tie-down loops.



The antenna base guards are a little tricky to fold, but are well worth the time and effort.

► top track run. I had to cut off the small locating pin on top of the forward drivers-side (port-side) return roller, but fit was otherwise trouble-free.

I used toothpicks to force the top track run against the return rollers while the glue was drying. There is nothing worse than floating tracks!

If you want to install the smoke emitters and the tow bar, you will have to mount the smoke emitter assembly lower than indicated in

the instructions.

It is also easier to install the front mudguards on the upper hull before joining the upper and lower hulls, but wait until the hull is assembled before adding the reinforcing strips.

Make sure that the rear mudguard mounting strips do not interfere with the fit of the lower hull.

I recommend joining the two hull pieces and dealing with any gap at the forward upper hull /

transmission cover join before adding any of the detail to the upper hull. I thinned and bevelled the inside edge of the upper hull at this join before gluing the parts together. This left a very small gap that was eliminated with a swipe of Mr Surfacer.

I used the tools from Tamiya's M4A1 plus Hauler's very nice British fire extinguishers. The only additional items are scrap plastic, lead foil for some straps,

fuse wire for tail light

electrical cables and fine copper wire representing the tiny handles on the sides of the turret.

Cast texture was applied to the turret using Tamiya Liquid Surface Primer, brushed on then stippled, shaped and toned-down as required with Tamiya Extra Thin Liquid Cement.

The massive, messy weld beads underneath the extra glacis armour plates and between the sections of the turret cheek armour are Milliput, shaped and textured with



The model is looking very much like a Sherman VC Firefly by now. It is only a pity that some of that nice detail on the front will eventually be hidden by stowage.

That rear deck looks way too clear...



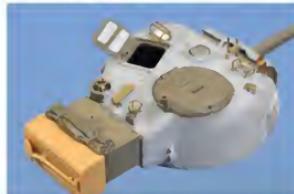
Stowage elements were sourced from the accessory sprue in Tamiya's 1:48 scale M10 Tank Destroyer, and also specific stowage sets from Legend's and Verlinden. The rear turret stowage bin from Tamiya's 1:48 scale Crusader Mk.I/II was also used.



Track pins were added to either end of the length of spare track. The resin was drilled with a pin vise. A piece of copper was glued into each hole and cut to length when the super glue had set.



Mounting caps and bolts were added to the spare wheels to cover the hole for the axle. The caps were punched using the Waldron Punch and Die, while the bolts were from the Model Kasten bolt set.



Tamiya's Crusader turret bin finds a new home on the back of the extended Firefly hull.



A retaining bar was glued between the mudguards. This improvised feature was often seen on Shermans in all theatres. Front stowage has been glued in place.



Nature abhors a vacuum. So does a modeller. The empty rear deck has been cluttered with crates and packs, plus a British helmet.

a toothpick and a hobby knife.

The only modification to Tamiya's parts was to fill a few ejector pin circles on the insides of the open hatches using several thick layers of Tamiya Surfacer.

All this work took only a few days. The model was carefully placed in my cabinet awaiting another couple of spare days for painting and weathering.

That was the 7th of January 2007.

THE PAUSE THAT REFRESHES...

I finally thawed my Firefly from suspended animation in late 2010. I have no good excuse for my terrible tardiness, but with the imminent release of the Fighting 48th! Comet, I thought I had better finish off this project.

My model was destined to depict a Sherman Firefly VC of New Zealand's 4th Armoured Brigade, 19th Armoured Regiment, B Squadron. The vehicle's nickname was "Dopo Voi", which translates from Italian to "After You".

A photo of that tank taken at the Sillarino River on 14 April 1945 appears in the Kiwi Armour book, "4th New Zealand Armoured Brigade in Italy" by Jeff Plowman and Malcolm Thomas. This

photograph shows spare tracks and road wheels on the front of the hull, with boxes carried on the rear deck. It also reveals an extra stowage box attached to the rear turret bustle.

I sourced the rear turret box from Tamiya's 1:48 scale Crusader Mk.I/II kit. Although

this is not precisely the style seen in the photo (the real one seems a bit smaller), it was close enough for my purposes. Two pressed road wheels were stolen from Tamiya's M10 kit, as were some of the Jerry cans and packs from the accessory sprue.

The other stowage - boxes, packs, spare tracks, oil can, bucket and helmet - were included in Verlinden's "British AFV Stowage WWII", Item No. 2354; and Legend's "Sherman Firefly Stowage Set", Item No. LF4101.

The reference photo shows a retaining strip made from timber or metal installed between the front mudguards. This was scratch built from two strips of scrap plastic, cut to size.

Legend's spare track lengths were moulded with track connectors at the ends. I cut these four connectors off and added pins from fine copper rod. Mounting caps and bolts were added to the spare wheels to cover the hole for the axle. The caps were punched using the Waldron Punch and Die, while the bolts were from the Model Kasten bolt set.

The stowage was glued to the front hull and the rear deck. It was a bit of a shame to cover up all of Fighting 48th!'s detail on the front of the model, but the clutter does add interest and authenticity. ▶

It always seems a shame to paint a model once it gets to this stage. The different colours offer an almost archaeological guide to the history of the build.



Stowage has been placed to ensure that it would not interfere with the rotation of the turret.



The entire model received a base coat of Tamiya's Grey Primer straight from the spray can. This acts as a key coat for later paint, and also as a useful aid to spotting lingering imperfection before the camouflage is applied.

A dark shadow coat is next. This dark colour will remain in deep undercuts and on the tracks.



The basic camouflage colour is a mix of Tamiya XF-51 Khaki Drab and around 15% XF-60 Dark Yellow.



COUNTERSHADING AND OTHER PAINTING ADVENTURES

A coat of Tamiya Grey Primer straight from the spray can revealed a tiny pin hole on the top of each front lifting hook and a slim gap under one of the boxes. These were filled with Tamiya Surfacer.

I decided to kick off the paint job with the most interesting element - the countershading of the barrel. The reference photo shows the bottom of the front half of the barrel and muzzle brake painted in a pale colour, but it does not look like white. The demarcation is wavy and uneven - it looks hand painted - and the painted ring that breaks up the front and rear halves of the barrel is very narrow.

I started by spraying the barrel

Tamiya XF-55 Deck Tan. This is a suitably ambiguous shade of very pale dirty brownish grey. Next, I cut a wavy line along a section of Tamiya masking tape. A thin strip was cut from the tape and attached to either side of the bottom of the barrel. The top of the barrel was then sprayed XF-27 Black Green. This takes on a nice dark bronze green shade, and will deliver some contrast between the main camouflage colour and the top of the barrel. The front half of the barrel was now measured and masked off before spraying a section of the centre in Tamiya XF-2 Flat White. In turn a very skinny

band, probably less than 0.5mm, was masked along with the front half of the barrel.

The model received an overall coat of Tamiya XF-1 Flat Black and XF-64 Red Brown mixed 50/50. This acts as a pre-shading coat, remaining in deep recesses and natural shadow areas after the camouflage has been applied. It also forms the basis for the dark coloured tracks and tyres.

The first layer of camouflage was a mix of Tamiya XF-51 Khaki Drab with around 15% XF-60 Dark Yellow. This was sprayed on most of the model except for the tracks. I did not worry too much about

precision or overspray, as I was planning to touch up the tracks and tyres with a black mix later on, and subsequent weathering would hide the demarcation anyway.

The next layer was a fading coat of a paler camouflage shade. The main camouflage colour was mixed 50/50 with Tamiya XF-49 Khaki. This was sprayed in streaks on the sides of the hull and turret, and irregular patches on the horizontal surfaces. The effect looks a bit extreme when the coat is freshly applied, but later weathering will blend it in.

The tracks and tyres were touched up with a thin blend of Tamiya XF-1 Flat Black and XF-64 Red Brown, applied with a soft medium sized brush.



The 17 pdr barrel of the Firefly was usually counter-shaded to avoid identification. The bottom of the barrel was first sprayed XF-55 Deck Tan, then masked with pre-cut Tamiya tape.



The top of the barrel was sprayed Tamiya XF-27 Black Green.



The front half of the barrel was masked off, and a section was sprayed XF-2 Flat White.



A very narrow band was masked.



The final step was to paint the rear of the barrel - both top and bottom halves - in the basic camouflage colour. With the final piece of masking tape removed, the characteristic counter-shading and painted ring are revealed.

Tamiya Clear was applied straight from the spray can for a gloss coat before decals.



A paler blend of the base camouflage colour and XF-49 Khaki was applied in a streaky spray over the entire model.



Guess where the turret was being held when it received its gloss coat, and guess who must have had paint thinners on his fingers?

More variation was sprayed using the two shades. It looks extreme here, but later weathering will tend to blend the colours.



The model now received a glossy coat of Tamiya Clear, straight from the spray can. This product delivers a hard, glossy coat that both protects the somewhat chalky Tamiya acrylic paint job from damage during further handling; and is also the perfect preparation for decals.

Decals were sourced from Bison's "Kiwi Armour" set, item no. 48004. Bison decals feature slightly alarming flattish finish carrier film, but I have always found them to settle down beautifully with the assistance of Solvaset; the film disappearing completely under a flat coat. This time was no exception. The only issue was an uncharacteristic out of register yellow markings. A thin

drop shadow of white could be seen on the edges of the big yellow markings.

Stowage was picked out and detailed using a wide variety of Vallejo acrylic paints. Timber tool handles were first painted with XF-59 Desert Yellow, followed by a streaky coat of X-26 Clear Orange, and finally a thin wash of Rowney 221 Burnt Sienna oil paint. The model was then coated with Gunze H20 and a small blob of Tamiya H20 and a small blob of Tamiya X-21 Flat Base mixed with alcohol thinners.

SNATCHING DEFEAT FROM THE JAWS OF VICTORY

I wanted to experiment with a layer of dust applied using the hairspray technique. I had some success

with this technique to deliver a distressed winter whitewash on my Zvezda ISU-152 (see MM Issue 50). Dust seemed to be another logical application.

I started by spraying the already decaled and flat-coated model with a layer of hairspray. Next up came a couple of very thin coats of Tamiya XF-57 Buff. So far, so good.

I used the same soft toothbrush that I had on my ISU-152 to start scrubbing off the bulk of the dusty Buff layer. The toothbrush was thoroughly wetted and the paint was scrubbed gently to start to reveal patches of the raw camouflage colour underneath. A small stiff paintbrush was used for detail areas.

The effect was looking pretty

good while the model was still damp. Random areas of dust remained on the model, especially along edges and in recesses just as I had envisioned.

The story changed rapidly as the model started to dry. Like some sort of sci-fi special effect, a visibly spreading virus of white afflicted the hull and turret. My nicely restrained dust effect was transformed into a chalky catastrophe.

SALVATION

Sometimes when modelling, you just need to take a deep breath and tell yourself that everything will eventually be okay. The absolute worst-case scenario was that I might have to sand and strip the ➤



Markings for "Dopo Vol", a New Zealand Sherman Firefly in Italy, were sourced from Bison Decals' 48004, "Kiwi Armour - New Zealand Armoured Brigade in WW2".

The markings went on beautifully, although the prominent yellow markings were slightly out of register.



Some shading and weathering was added to the stowage while the model was still glossy.



A wash of thinned oil paint was also selectively applied at this stage. A mix of Raw Umber and Lamp Black was used.



Tools and stowage received some more attention using Vallejo acrylic paints and fine brush. The colours may seem a bit too vibrant here, but later weathering will tone them down.



The large star decal on the rear deck was cut and placed around the stowage box. The misaligned yellow decals may be seen here. Note the narrow white drop shadow.



Olive Drab need not be a boring camouflage scheme. With a little variation and stowage, it can be quite lively.

paint. Although it would be time consuming, it would not be the first time that I have redone a paint job.

Before I took any drastic action, however, I thought I would try something else. I have seen a coat of Future floor polish dissolve paint blemishes before. I wondered if a coat of Gunze H2O Flat Clear might do the same thing.

Without any great expectation, I sprayed the hull with Gunze Flat Clear. To my absolute delight, the chalky mess disappeared underneath the fan of the airbrush like a vampire touched by sunrise.

I still wanted the vehicle to look dusty so I reverted to my reliable MiG Pastels rather than conduct any more high-risk experiments. MiG Pigments P234 Rubbel (sic) Dust and P415 Light European

Earth were used in a ratio of 50/50 and mixed with water, and then applied with an old brush to the running gear and the bottom of the hull. When dry, most of the pigments were scrubbed off with a stiffish brush. Some paler pigment - PO30 Beach Sand - was added to the mix and applied dry to the top edges of the sandshield mounts and the front of the hull.

With that, the model was complete.

CONCLUSION

Fighting 48th's Sherman V / M4A4 Conversion Set is an impressive offering.

Casting is first-rate, detail is excellent and fit is trouble free. The comprehensive photo-etched fret adds even more valuable detail. It is fast to build too. Construction as detailed in this article took place over a period of only two days. I have no real excuse that I took me another four years before I painted the model!

By the way, I recently broke my long-time airbrush, so I splurged on a new Iwata HP-CH. This high-quality airbrush features a

MAC valve that controls the airflow near the spray head. All the paintwork on this model was done with my new Iwata HP-CH. I am still getting used to it, but I was very happy with the results I achieved here.

Allied armour fans are indeed fortunate to see excellent Sherman Firefly options available from Dragon in 1:72 and 1:35, Tasca in 1:35, and Fighting 48th's conversions of Tamiya's kit in 1:48 scale.

This conversion will be warmly welcomed by Allied armour modellers who want to build a Firefly VC or a stretched-hull Sherman.

I look forward to seeing Fighting 48th's Comet, due for release any time now. ■



Disaster! Following scrubbing, large swathes of the hull and turret were transformed into this chalky parody. A cool head is helpful in this sort of situation.



The hull and turret were sprayed with common household hairspray, followed by a misting coat of Tamiya XF-57 Buff.



The simple solution was a couple of airbrush coats of Gunze H2O Flat Clear. No scrubbing, no stripping – the Flat Clear almost miraculously restored the original finish.



Mig Pigments P224 Rubbel (sic) Dust and P415 Light European Earth were used in a ratio of 50/50 and mixed with water, and then applied with an old brush to the running gear and the bottom of the hull.



When dry, most of the pigments are scrubbed off with a stiffish brush. Some paler pigment – P030 Beach Sand – was added to the mix and applied dry to the top edges of the sandshield mounts and the front of the hull.



Some of the intended results of the hairspray managed to evade the earlier disaster. The effect may best be seen on the side of the turret and the turret bin.



The characteristic 17 pdr barrel counter shading may be best appreciated from this low angle.



Fighting 48th's conversion and Tamiya's Sherman kit are a great recipe for a satisfying project.

Modelspec

Tamiya 1/35 Sherman IC
Fighting 48th! Sherman Firefly
VC / M4A4 Conversion

Kit No. 27087
Item No. FF001

Accessories used

Verlinden Item No. 2354 - British AFV Stowage WWII
Legend Item No. LF4091 - Sherman Firefly Stowage Set
Hauler Item No. HL24051 - British Pyrene Fire Extinguisher External
Model Kasten Item No. MK1-A1 - Bolt and Nut Head Set
Bison Decals' Item No. 48004 - "Xini Armour - New Zealand Armoured Brigade in WWII".

Tools used

Iwata HP-CW Airbrush
Waldron Punch and Die Set
Mission Models Multi-tool

Paints used

Tamiya Acrylics: X-18 Semi-Gloss Black; X-21 Flat Base; X-26 Clear Orange; X-27 Flat Black; X-28 White; X-29 Deck Tan; X-49 Khaki; X-51 Khaki Drab; X-55 Deck Green; X-57 Buff; X-59 Desert Yellow; X-60 Bark Yellow; X-64 Red Brown.
Tamiya Spray Grey Primer
Tamiya Spray Clear
Vallejo Acrylics - Various
Winsor and Newton Oil Paints: 554 Raw Umber; 337 Lamp Black
Rowney Oil Paint - 221 Burnt Sienna

Weathering products used

Aerosol Hairspray (any brand will do really)
Mig Pigments: P030 Beach Sand; P224 Rubbel (sic) Dust;
P415 Light European Earth

Good quality basic kit; exquisitely detailed and cast conversion parts; simple basic construction; accurate

Some parts may have to be sourced from other kits or accessory sets (e.g. wheels, tools etc)

Available from

Tamiya kits are distributed in the UK by The Hobby Company Limited www.hobbyco.net and available in all good model shops.
Thanks to Fighting 48th! for the conversion sample www.fighting48th.com
Iwata airbrushes are available in the UK from The Airbrush Company Ltd www.airbrushes.com

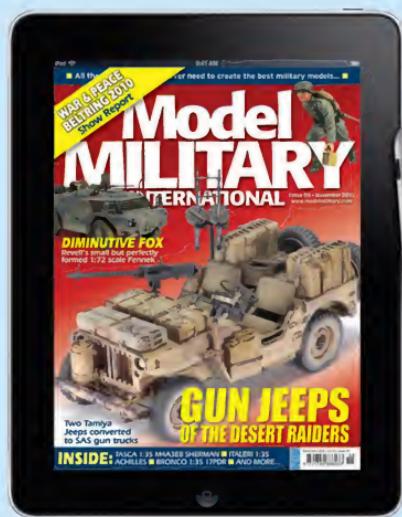
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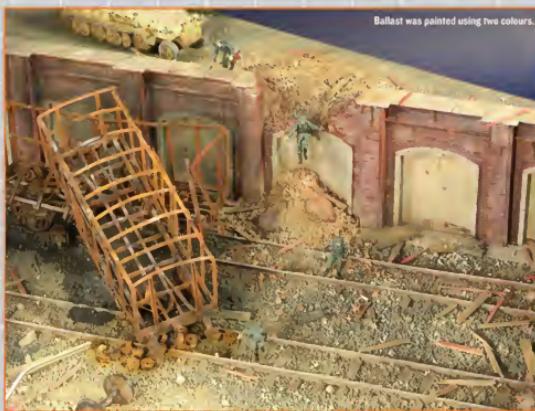
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CHERBOURG 1944 PART FIVE



The mating edges of the half-track's body were masked with Maskol before painting to make sure that the paint did not interfere with the adhesive when the upper body was added.

In this concluding installment, Justo Mira describes the painting and final placement of all the elements for his 1:72 scale Cherbourg 1944 diorama.

THE BALLAST AND THE METAL BRIDGE

I used two colours for the ballast. I glued the ballast and the earth with a mixture of water and white glue.

For the bridge, I applied a general wash with thinned Humbrol 62. The metallic effect achieved with a 2B graphite pencil. I used pigments at the end too. ■

Colour Summary

Metal parts:

Base: Tamiya XF-63 German Grey + Tamiya XF-53 Neutral Grey
Lights: Tamiya XF-2, Flat White
Wash: Matt 62 Leather Humbrol
Pigments: P029 MIG

Wooden parts:

I applied an intense wash of Vallejo Model Color 941 Burnt Umber over a grey base.
Dry-brush: Titan 08 Ocher Yellow
Pigments: MIG P029

Building parts:

Base: Tamiya XF-2 Flat White
Wash: Vallejo Aerographic 816 Green Olive and 821 Burnt Umber
Dry-brush: Matt 34 White Humbrol
Effect dirt: oil Raw Umber no 74 Titan

Sd. Kfz. 251

The Sd.Kfz. 251 was carefully painted with the following colours:

Base interior: Tamiya XF-2 + X-22
Base exterior: Tamiya XF-60 + XF-57 + X-22
Camouflage: XF-58 Olive Green and XF-64 Red Brown.

Filter: Humbrol Matt 62 Leather
Second Filter: Mij's "The Filter" Brown for Dark Yellow

Chips: Humbrol 33 Black; Vallejo Model Color 976 Buff
Washes: Humbrol Matt 33 Black

Ageing: Titan oils no Target, Natural Shade; no 74, no 78 Toasted Shade, no 102 Red, Rembrandt Orange Chromium.
Powder base: Tamiya XF-52 Earth Brown airbrushed

Powders: Mig Pigments P027, P028, P029

Alby Somus

The Alby Somus was finished with the following paints and weathering products:

Under: Tamiya XF-1 Flat Black airbrushed
Base: Tamiya XF-60 Dark Yellow + XF-2 Flat White + XF-2 Clear airbrushed

Camouflage: Tamiya XF-58 Olive Green airbrushed
Filler: Mig "The Filter" for Tri Colored Camouflage

Chips: Vallejo 976 Buff; Humbrol 33 Matt Black
Powders: Mig Pigments P027, P029



The interior was first painted a shade of creamy yellow mixed from Tamiya acrylics.



Chipping and weathering has a dramatic effect, darkening the previously pale shade.



Chipping and rust was achieved using Humbrol 33 Black enamel and Vallejo Model Color 976 Buff.



The big fuel drums were masked with Tamiya tape and sprayed in green and white.



With the interior complete, the Maskol was stripped off and the upper body added to the model. The large opening for the interior was masked off with Tamiya tape.



A deeper shade of Dark Yellow was mixed using Tamiya XF-60 Dark Yellow and XF-57 Buff.



The first disruptive camouflage colour was Tamiya XF-58 Olive Green. This was sprayed very thinly for a sparse mottle.



Tamiya XF-64 Red Brown was next. This was also sprayed thinly in a loose mottle.

"Chipping and weathering has a dramatic effect, darkening the previously pale shade.,"

Tech Guide - SMALL SCALE DIORAMA



A subtle filter of thinned Humbrol Matt G2 Leather was applied over the tri-colour camouflage.



The effect is still pretty stark at this stage.



The structural elements of the vehicle are highlighted with chipping, especially along the edges of surfaces.



Chipping was applied with the tip of a fine brush.



The effect is more heavily applied at the edges of the interior.



Mig's Brown Filter for Dark Yellow was applied with a soft, wide brush.



Humbrol Matt 33 Black was thinned and used to highlight panels, hatches and other surface features.



This was blended with thinners for a subtle variation in shade.



Tiny spots of oil paint was applied to the larger surfaces.



Streaks of rust were also added at this stage.



The weathering ties together the whole paint job.

Mig Pigments were also used to further blend the colours and add dust effects.



A similar sequence was used to paint the Alby Semua. The base coat of Dark Yellow came first.



A single disruptive colour was used this time – Tamiya XF-58 Olive Green mixed with X-22 Clear.



Mig's Filter for Standard Tricolor Camouflage was added for some variety.

Chips were applied using Vallejo 976 Buff and Humbrol 33 Matt Black.



Details were picked out using a fine paintbrush.



The final step of weathering was three different sets of Mig Pigments.



The sea mines and fuel drums have also been weathered.



Details make the difference. Note the rocks and planks scattered on the abandoned carriage.



Figures add a sense of scale and action to the scene.

Tech Guide - SMALL SCALE DIORAMA



One of the figures is carefully secured in place to create the illusion that he is jumping off a wall.



Other figures are posed running, crouching, across the railway yard.



Debris and ash are scattered on the ground.



Varying the colours of the carriage is an effective technique.



The Alby Somua is placed in the scene.



The base colour for the metal bridge was a mix of Tamiya XF-63 German Grey and XF-53 Neutral Grey.



A Commander has been installed in the Sd.Kfz. 251.



The metallic effect achieved with a 2B graphite pencil.

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KIWI SCORPIONS

With the recent re-release of the Tamiya LRDG Truck I would like to pass on for fellow modellers an excellent reference book on the LRDG from the Kiwi perspective. This is "Kiwi Scorpions" Author Brendon O'Carroll, published by Token Publishing Ltd.

It covers the Kiwi involvement from the inception to the winding up of the LRDG. There are many excellent photos and reference details of the different vehicles used not just the Chevy's but Fords, Jeeps and the Heavy Section Marmon Harrington and other 10 Ton Vehicles plus aircraft as well.

For military railway buffs there are two excellent publications on the Desert Railway that the British Army built and operated in the Western Desert in the Second World War. With out the railway it may have been a different result in fact Field Marshal Montgomery stated before the battle of Alamein "Well it's now the railway versus Rommel" and Field

Marshall Rommel in his memoirs commented that "the greatest advantage the Eighth Army had over the Afrika Corps was the desert railway".

"The Desert Railway" by Brendon Judd may still be available from the Railway Book Committee, 56 Red Hill Road Papakura Auckland New Zealand, Email leaf@paradise.net.nz

This book covers not only the railway operations of the railway operating companies' sappers but also being enterprising giving anything-a-go types, operated barges and lighters during the siege of Tobruk.

The second publication may now be out of print but could be available on trade. It is the Official War History of the New Zealand Engineers Middle East by J.F.Cody. War History Department Branch of Internal Affairs New Zealand Government.

This book tells the story of not only the field engineers but outlines the work of the sappers who, with Indian sappers, built the railway

and the operated it. For those interested in military engineering this is a good read as it covers the campaigns and different operations of the N.Z. Engineers from the Western Desert through to the completion of the Italian Campaign at Trieste in 1945

Allan Rinaldi
New Zealand

*Ed Says, Hi Allan,
Thank you for the information about
these interesting references.*

FORMATION WEBSITE AND TASCA'S .50 CAL

I have just finished reading my copy of the October edition of Model Military International and in particular the making of the "American Monster T28 Super Heavy Tank, scale:1:35" As with a lot of articles written in each month's issue, there are quite a lot of pieces of equipment used in there production that I have not heard about or in fact seen a web site address for certain accessories. For example,

Kindest regards
Collin

*Ed says, Hi Colin,
Formations website may be found
here www.formationsmodels.com
The Tasca .50 cal machine gun
may be found in all of Tasca's 1:35
scale Sherman kits. It is a multi-part
assembly - a true jewel in scale. Jim
had one spare from a Sherman that
did not have the .50 cal fitted to the
cupola.*

KENGI MODELS

In your August, 2010 issue, 1:48 section, you show a picture of a KENGI Sd.Kfz 11 three ton half track. However, you do not indicate the company's web site or any other means of acquiring the kit. Could you please send me any info you have regarding this firm as well as ways to order kits, perhaps from a distributor who carries Kengi products. This info will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you
Dick Heath

*Ed says, Hi Dick,
Yes, Kengi products can be hard
to get hold of. They do not have a
website or a shopfront but their
products appear online on Ebay
when they are available. You might
try searching for Kengi on ebay at
www.ebay.com*

WOODY GOES TO WAR

Just a few quick words to say how much I enjoyed the 1:25 Ford C11 Station Wagon conversion in the September 2010 issue - a handsome vehicle and what a fine job Mr. Herbert made of his model. I haven't made a "civvy" car kit since I was a teenager but it was refreshing to see new life brought to an old kit in this way. If I had a burning desire to add a model of this vehicle to my collection (although 1:76 and 1:35 are my preferred scales) I know now that I could do it with Simon Herbert's article for guidance. He has done all the hard work already - although I suspect I would cut a few corners and make a few more compromises than he did! But perhaps I'll wait for Tamiya to release one in 1:35...

Not being familiar with large-scale car kits, I wonder if there are any others out there which could be converted into military subjects? I can't imagine there are many. In a similar vein, what fun Dave Aungst's 1:285 GHO diorama was too. Another odd scale; not quite modelling mainstream but I'd forgotten how detailed those little models were - I almost regret now selling all mine off in the mid-eighties!

Ed says, Hi Clive,

Yes, Simon did an inspiring job on his desert Woody. I am aware of a few other civilian models in 1:24 scale that might be suitable for military conversion. These include Italeri's 1:24 scale Opel Blitz Fire Truck, Revell's 1:24 scale 1926 Mack Bulldog Tank Truck, and don't forget Emhar's recent duo of Bedford O Type lorries.

I am sure there are many more that would make for interesting conversions too.

Light & peace, Clive Hebbden, Ringmer, East Sussex



31

Diary Dates

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November 4th-7th

HELLENIC MODELLERS GROUP
 One of the biggest Plastic Modelling Events, with more than 300 models on display, will take place in Aigio-Greece from 4 to 7 November 2010. The show will include modelling competitions open to members and non-members and will also have trade stands. There is free entrance to the exhibition and all are welcome to attend.

More information can be found on www.helmo.gr
 Contact Nick Oliver Kalimeris - Tel 01865763997

November 6th

IPMS MIDDLE TENNESSEE MODEL CONTEST
 IPMS Middle Tennessee will be hosting their club contest on 6 November 2010. The venue will be the Rutherford County Agricultural Center, 315 Rice Blvd, Murfreesboro, TN 37129, USA.
 Doors open for vendors at 6:30am, and for the public at 8:00am. For additional information please contact Novus Henry by email on nhenryr@bellsouth.net or by phone on (615)-478-2305; or Tom Winter by email at a330driver@bellsouth.net or by phone on (615)-479-7737.

November 7th

DENMARK MODEL SHOW AND COMPETITION
 The Danish Model Show and Competition will be held on 6

-7 November 2010 at: Esbjerg åben, Gammelby Fritidscenter, Grønvangsvej, Esbjerg. For more info look at web www.esbjergmodelbyggerforening.dk There will be a lot of professional and private traders, plus 500-750 models competition, so it is Denmark's biggest show. Aviation & Military Book Centre, Friendship Models, S B Models and Cammett Ltd are heading to Bathgate for a Traders' Fayre on Friday 10th December (4-9pm) and Saturday 11th December (9am-5pm). Free Parking, Free entry. For a great selection of books, accessories and kits. Please join us at the Conference Room in the Premier Inn, Starlaw Road, Bathgate, EH48 1LQ. Modelers and enthusiasts are all welcomed. Pre-orders/enquiries welcomed. Tel. 0845 260 4413. sales@aviationbookcentre.com

November 20-21st

First International Nordic Challenge scale modeling exhibition will be held in Hämeenlinna, Finland. We have categories for all scale models , figures, vignettes and dioramas. The event will take place in the medieval castle of Häme. Workshops from top modelers and figure sculptors like Adam Wilder (USA) and Pekka Nieminen (FIN). Top attractions nearby like the prison museum, artillery museum and the famous Parola

tank museum are nearby. We will also have a Christmas party! Please visit our website www.nordic-challenge.net for more details.

Contact: Marko Teerioja
 Tel: +358 50 535 8249
marko.teerioja@me.com

November 21st

BUGLE CALL 2010
 The Largest Military Modelling Show in the South West. Sunday November 21st 2010 The Pavilion, North Parade Road, Bath BA2 4EU. The show offers a wonderful variety of exhibitions by over 40 clubs and group, an excellent range of trade stands selling figures, kits, tools, bases, flats and books.

Other attractions include:

- Period re-enactors
- Painting demonstrations by some of the UK's top figure painters
- A great atmosphere where people are happy to discuss their hobby and share ideas and techniques
- The delights of Christmas shopping in the lovely city of Bath

The show is organised by the Bristol branch of the British Model Soldier Society. For further information contact Robert Lane at elanlane13@tesco.net

February 18th-20th

AMPS ATLANTA 2011

AMPS Atlanta is holding its 3rd annual model show February 18 - 20, 2011 in Atlanta, GA USA. This is a great opportunity to tune up for the AMPS International show being held in April 2011. This show is being held in cooperation with the Atlanta Military Figure Society and boasts a broad appeal and a sizable vendor area. Visit our web site at www.ampsatlanta.org for more details.

May 8th

Modellbaufreunde Siegen Model Show, Germany.
 8th Modellbaufreunde Siegen Model Show will be held on 8 May 2011 at Festival Hall in Wilnsdorf, Germany. For more information please email info@modellbaufreunde-siegen.de or visit www.modellbaufreunde-siegen.de

May 15th

MIDLAND EXPO 2011
 IPMS Birmingham is pleased to announce the return of Midland Expo at a new venue, Cocks Moors Woods Leisure Centre and Golf Course, Alcester Road South, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 6ER., in 2011. We have a confirmed date of Sunday 15th May 2011 for the show and look forward to seeing many of the regular exhibitors, traders and visitors who used to attend Midland Expo at the old venue.





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Small Scale A round-up of the latest news and releases in 1:72 and 1:76



DRAGON

1:72 SCALE PZ.KPFW. IV AUSF. F2(G) KIT NO. 7359

The German Panzer IV was designed before the Second World War as an Infantry support tank. The job of dealing with enemy tanks was given to the Panzer III. However, war experience showed the Panzer III as often incapable of handling this task, especially when heavily armoured British and French tanks were involved and with the appearance of the Soviet T-34 and KV-1 tanks. Obviously, a tank with a heavier gun was required.

The 75mm Pak 40 anti-tank gun had shown itself to be a potent weapon against all Allied tanks then in production, so it was fitted to the Panzer IV Ausf. F1 to become the Ausf. F2, later developed as the Ausf. G.

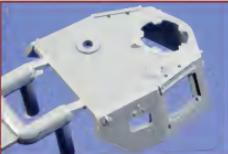
Dragon had already released the F1 so it was only a matter of replacing sprue C, which carries the short 75mm gun and associated parts with "F" and the long 75mm Pak 40-based gun.

Dragon's 1:72 scale armour kits are highly detailed and accurate models to the point that this company now commands the scale (closely followed by Revell). It is only Dragon's reluctance to fit their models with link and length tracks that has stopped them from total domination.

A few years ago, this level of detail would have been considered normal for 1:35 scale armour kits but today this is the standard from Dragon in 1:72. So far, they've only done the F1 and F2 models, with both the early and late still to come but they have also released many of the vehicles based on the Panzer IV chassis such as the Jagdpanzer IV, Stug IV and many others.

With the recent Global Financial Crisis, Dragon seems to have slowed their production to just modifying kits that are already out but occasionally something new pops up so don't lose hope. Sooner or later, what you are waiting for will appear. Highly Recommended.

Thanks to The Hobby Company Limited for the sample www.hobbyco.net
Glen Porter



ARMORY

1:72 SCALE RESIN DETAIL SETS

Armory continues to expand their 1:72 scale resin and photo etched accessory range with a number of items covering several quite different subjects.

First up are three resin wheel sets covering the BTR-80 Russian armoured car and the GMC / Studebaker truck. All are exceptionally well detailed and cast and a new feature on these sets is that the tyres themselves are pre-coloured matt black and can simply be weathered as they are.

A particularly useful aspect of these sets is the addition of a spare tyre.



7.5 X 20" WHEELS FOR GMC

CKCW-353 / STUDEBAKER US6

ITEM NO. AR AC7262A

KI-80N WHEELS AND STANDARD

HUB FOR BTR-80

ITEM NO. AC7271A



KI-80N WHEELS AND ARMoured

HUB FOR BTR-80

ITEM NO. AC7271B

A couple of turrets are available for the ACE, PST or Trumpeter T-54 and T-55 kits. These are provided as a large single piece casting with some additional refinement in the details over the kits they are aimed at, along with a few smaller parts. The detail is good, although it's a shame that the hatches are moulded shut.

T-54 MOD 1951 / T-54A TURRET

ITEM NO. AR AC7291A

T-55 TURRET

ITEM NO. AR AC7291B



Finally we have a photo etched set for the ACE Pak 43 gun.

PE 7204 PAK 43 UPGRADE SET (LIMITED EDITION)

ITEM NO. PE 7204

This is a comprehensive upgrade set with a large copper and smaller brass fret provided. Of particular note is the etched replacement for the gun shield, a part that is usually overly thick on the kits. The instructions are clearly printed and well laid out.

All are impressive and come highly recommended.

The Armory range can be found at the Armory website www.armory.in.ua and, in the UK, at LoneWolf Models www.lonewolfmodels.co.uk.

Alex Clark



REVELL

1:72 CROMWELL MK.IV

Not long ago, Revell was the undisputed master of 1:72 scale armour. They have probably now been overtaken by Dragon due to their superbly detailed kits, but Revell is still running a very close second, mainly due to Dragon's reluctance to offer link and length tracks. Mind you, Dragon's DS-100 tracks are very good, well detailed and able to be glued with ordinary plastic glue.

One of the kits that has kept Revell yapping at Dragon's heels is their 1:72 scale Cromwell Mk. IV, kit no 03123 and what a beauty it is. British WWII armour is a bit thin on the ground in this scale. This is the only example from Revell, and there are none from Dragon apart from some Sherman Fireflies and a couple from Italeri, ex Escl, which are not up to the same standard.

Revell's 1:72 scale Cromwell has a couple of options that I didn't use. One is a hedge cutter which I am told was made but there is no evidence of it ever being used. The other is a hood to go over the air intake at the rear. Most of the photos I could find at the time showed it also not being used.

The kit been around since 2001 so it is not exactly new. I built it about eight years ago and it was one of the first armour kits that I attempted weathering. Being an aircraft modeller, I used the same techniques that I had employed on aircraft. This didn't go all that well when I showed it to some of my armour building friends.

When paint is abraded or chipped off an aircraft it usually reveals bare metal, which oxidizes very quickly. I usually show this as light grey. AFVs on the other hand are made from armour plate that looks more like dark grey when chipped and damaged.

The model has been sitting around for the last eight years waiting for me to get around to changing the weathering. I have now painted over the light grey using Tamiya XF-63 German Grey applied with a fine brush and then given the whole vehicle a coat of Tamiya Weathering Master "A" (Light Sand) to give it that dirty, dusty look.

As an aside, Revell's link & length tracks from this kit (if asked nicely, Revell will sell them to you) can be used to improve both the Hasagawa and Airfix Crusader kits, with the Airfix being the better of the two when and if they get around to re-releasing it.

Revell is distributed in the UK by The Hobby Company Limited (www.hobbyco.net) and available in all good model shops.

Glen Porter



ARCHER FINE TRANSFERS

1/72-76 SCALE GENERIC GERMAN TURRET NUMBERS • ITEM NOS. AR74001B, AR74001W

Archer Fine Transfers has released two sets of turret numbers for small scale vehicles.

These sets come in both stencil and solid outline styles. Each packet contains a different colour with white and black being on offer here.

There are two ways to apply these, the "dry method" for which these are primarily meant, and the traditional "wet method".

The former must be done on a clean dry surface, free of oil and dust. Hold the transfer in place with a couple of pieces of tape and gently rub on the carrier film with a blunt instrument.

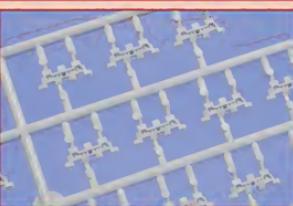
The wet method involves rubbing the selected item onto clear decimal film. From there it can be soaked off and applied in the usual manner. This procedure can be useful where the surface onto which the decal is to be applied is not flat.

Archer's transfers allow you to put markings on your vehicle without the risk of "silvering". Application is easy and with plenty of numbers to choose from, individuality of your subject is only a packet away.

Brett Green



Incoming



TRUMPETER

1:35 SCALE T-62 MODEL 1972 • KIT NO. 00377

The T-62 was produced in the former Soviet Union between 1961 and 1975. It became a standard tank in the Soviet arsenal, partly replacing the T-55. It was developed in response to the mounting of the British 105mm tank gun in the Centurion and M60 series of NATO tanks. The T-62 was equipped with the new 115mm smoothbore tank gun. This gun was the first smoothbore tank gun in service. The tank went through many changes and development between 1961 and 1975.

Trumpeter's new 1:35 scale kit represents a T-62 Model 1972. This was an updated T-62 Model 1967 with a DShK 12.7mm heavy machine gun added to the loader's hatch, a new drive sprocket, RMSh tracks and an improved fording attachment..

On opening the box we find 20 sprues containing 492 parts, one lower hull tub, one etched brass fret, a turned aluminium gun barrel, a decal sheet, colour painting guide and multi-page instruction booklet. The parts are moulded in the usual light grey plastic and are crisp and flash free. The lower hull is of the conventional tub type, well detailed with no sink marks or blemishes.

Trumpeter has taken a measure of care, with some of the more delicate parts on Sprue A protected by foam packing. The main wheels are provided with separate tyres, these being moulded in hard black plastic. The tracks are delivered as individual links and are very well detailed with no flash or ejector pin marks visible. They will, however, require some clean up due to the number of attachment points to the sprue.

Two main gun barrels are provided, one turned aluminium and one multi part plastic. The aluminium barrel is far superior and would be my personal choice.

The colour painting guide provides colour schemes for a Soviet or Syrian vehicle.

This 1:35 scale T-62 Model 1972 has to be the finest detailed kit that I have seen in Trumpeter's range and has a lot of potential for super detailing. Highly Recommended.

Thanks to J.B. Wholesalers for the sample www.jbwholesalers.com.au

Stuart Ransley



TRUMPETER

1:35 SCALE GERMAN E50 (50-75 TONS) STANDARDPANZER • KIT NO. 01536

Trumpeter really seems to be releasing new kits at a rapid rate these days. One of their latest is a paper Panzer, something that was designed but never produced. This is a 1:35 scale German E50 [50-75 Tons] Standardpanzer.

Despite its theoretical origins, this is very much welcome to the world of kits.

Looking at the vehicle, you can clearly see the lower hull is pretty much a Tiger II and the turret, a Panther II. The running gear is different with a lot less road wheels and a different suspension set up.

So what is in the box? To start with there are seven sprues of grey plastic, a turret and a lower and upper hull, coming to a total of 294 parts. There is also a set of full-length flexible vinyl tracks, a small photo-etched etch sheet with 21 pieces, an A4 glossy color chart, a length of brass wire and a 12 page instruction booklet that is well illustrated and easy to follow.

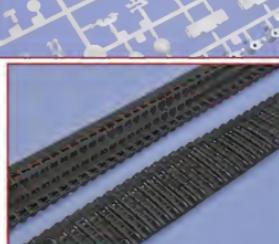
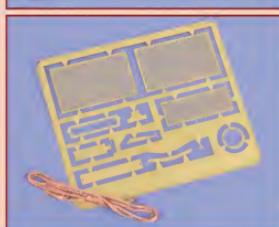
All the plastic parts are well-moulded, nicely detailed, dear of flash and will require only minimal cleanup. The photo-etched parts appears to be of a nice quality and are used for areas such as the engine grills, exhaust ends and tool clamps.

This kit looks relatively simple to assemble, and should be a fairly quick build. Painting will be a lot of fun with all those late-war schemes and hypothetical schemes available, seeing as we won't be constrained by facts or references!

In summary, this is a very nice model of an unusual but interesting subject. It will be great to see what people do with this one in the future. I like it. Recommended.

Thanks to J.B. Wholesalers for the sample www.jbwholesalers.com.au

Andrew Judson





VOYAGER

1:35 SCALE WWII GERMAN SD KFZ 7 8T HALF TRACK UPGRADE (FOR THE DRAGON KIT)

ITEM NO. PE35362

In my opinion, Voyager updates offer the modeller a great product at a great price and this set is no exception.

This update provides no less than seven photo-etched frets together with six turned brass parts, two lengths of wire, one photo negative for the instrument panel and two lengths of plastic rod.

Three well laid out pages of instructions cover 59 construction sequences and cover most of the detail on the exterior of the vehicle. The front engine vent cover and hood is made up entirely in etch with some tricky bends being called for here. The engine and undercarriage are also covered with some breath taking etch in evidence here. The entire front windshield is replaced with photo etch, as too is the dashboard with a photonegative film being provided. The front mudguard brackets are included which were inexplicably missing from the Dragon kit. The cabin's non-slip flooring is provided and for the most part is a better alternative than the kit parts. These additions would look fantastic when done (and are really the only accurate way this can be achieved) but will be very time consuming (but then again, what etch isn't). Also included is the large folded crew cover in resin with the "baby pram" supports in etch in the folded position. How Dragon missed this in their kit is a real mystery, so if it is pleasing then that this is included. The last pieces in this set are the turned width poles and these are also very well done.

Overall, this is a great set and will add a great deal to the mostly excellent (but lacking in some important areas) Dragon kit.

Highly Recommended.

Thanks to Voyager Model for the samples www.voyagermodel.com



VOYAGER

1:35 SCALE

PHOTO-ETCHED AND TURNED METAL UPGRADES

VBS 0152 – Modern US M40A1 106mm Barrel [1 piece]

VBS 0153 – Modern US M40A1 106mm Barrel [6 pieces]

PEA 214 – WWII German Railway Car Functional Buffers and Tow Hooks

PHOTO-ETCHED UPGRADES

PE 35196 – WWII German Tiger I Initial Production Afrika Korps

PE 35337 – WWII Panzer III Ausf. N Late Version

PE 35338 – WWII Panzer III Ausf. L-N / StuG. III Ausf. F8 Fenders

PE 35340 – WWII German Tiger I Initial Production

PE 35373 – WWII German BP-42 Geschutzwagen for Trumpeter

PE 35379 – Chinese PLA ZSL-92A APC for Hobby Boss

PEA 053 – WWII German Tiger I Initial Productions No.10 Stowage Bins [x2]

PEA 054 – WWII German Tiger I Initial Productions No.2 Stowage Bin

PEA 056 – WWII German Tiger I Stowage Bin [Afrika Korps]

PE 35338 – WWII Panzer III Ausf. M/N Additional Armour Pattern 2

Voyager Model from Shanghai keep up their prolific monthly release schedule with another 13 new update sets in 1:35 scale.

The most unusual sets in this batch provide steel and brass bumpers for German WWII railway rolling stock and locomotives. The first set, PEA 214, is a generic offering with the bumpers plus two hooks. The second is specifically for the Trumpeter 1:35 scale BP-42 Geschutzwagen, and includes a wealth of photo-etched detail for that kit, plus 96 tiny but gorgeous individual turned hex bolts.

Five of this month's sets are destined for Dragon's early version 1:35 scale Tiger I kits. Three are different styles of stowage bins, while the two other sets are comprehensive upgrades that include turned brass smoke dischargers, barrel cleaners, copper wire for tow cables and resin wheel mounts. The Afrika Korps Tiger set also supplies a whopping twelve frets of photo-etch, with seven included in the Initial Production set. Academy's new 1:35 Ontos has not escaped Voyager's attention either, with the choice of a single M40A1 106mm barrel in turned metal with photo-etched details, or a full compliment of six. New detail sets are also available for the Dragon Panzer III / StuG III Ausf. F8 and Hobby Boss Chinese PLA ZSL-92A APC.

The photo-etched sets will best be attempted by the experienced modeller, but the results will be stunning given appropriate applications of skill and patience.

All Highly Recommended to experienced modellers
Thanks to Voyager Model for the samples

www.voyagermodel.com
Voyager is available in Australia from Creative Models Australia

www.creativemodels.com.au

Brett Green



WAR GAMES ADHESIVES

FILLA-GLU BLACK

KICKA-PEN

Super glue can be an effective, fast drying filler, but one of the biggest problems is that it is clear and therefore it can be difficult to tell if there are any sink marks or gaps left after sanding.

War Games Adhesives has now released a variation on the super glue theme that addresses this challenge – "Filla-Glu Black". As the name suggests, this super glue is tinted black. It is also quite thick, and therefore ideal for filling, although it could be used as a straight adhesive too. The glue comes in a 10 Gram plastic squeeze bottle with a convenient screw cap.

A second product, the Kicka-Pen, complements the black Filla-Glu as both a primer and an accelerant to speed the setting time of the super glue. The liquid is applied to the mating surfaces of the parts using the felt-tip of the Kicka-Pen, acting as a pre-applied primer even before the super glue is used. As a precaution, I would suggest that the glue is not applied directly from the bottle if you have primed the part with the Kicka-Pen as you may risk setting the glue on the tip, the neck or the entire bottle of glue.

Filla-Glu Black and the associated Kicka-Pen are both simple but clever ideas that will be useful for many aspects of vehicle and figure modelling.

Highly Recommended.

Thanks to War Games Adhesives for the sample www.fillaglue.com

Brett Green

Incoming

GREATWALL HOBBY

1:35 SCALE GERMAN SWS WITH 2CM FLAKVIERLING • KIT NO. 3525

The fourth in GreatWall Hobby's 1:35 scale SWS family is the German SWS with 2cm Flakvierling, armed with the quad 20mm flak gun.

Inside the box are 15 sprues of grey plastic, totalling 458 parts, all with excellent detail and requiring no more than minimal cleanup. There is also a sprue of 22 photo-etched parts. These appear to be of very high quality, being used for areas such as mesh on the side gates, rear stowage box doors, ammo racks on the Flak and so forth.

Also in the box is a sheet of decals, a nice glossy A4 color chart, with very nice illustrations, and finally a 10 page instruction manual.

This kit is beautifully detailed, especially inside the driver's cab, and on the Flakvierling gun. The Flak has the option of having the shields in either travel or fighting positions, and as mentioned has photo etched ammo racks.

What I really like about this kit is that it is a late-war vehicle and a nice change from a Tiger, Panther, Panzer etc. I also love the late-war paint schemes.

By itself, this is an excellent kit that will build into a beautiful model, but if you want to really take this kit to the next level, there is the option of the Great Wall additional photo-etch set.

This set comprises three sheets of etch and two clearance indicator poles. The set will enhance parts of the chassis, the drivers cap, tool brackets and the Flak, with etch shields and stowage boxes, a total of 231 parts of very high quality etch, part No L3525T.

Without or with the extra set this is an excellent kit. I am looking forward to seeing what comes from this company next.

Highly Recommended.

GreatWall Hobby products are available in the UK from The Airbrush Company

www.airbrushes.net

Andrew Judson



NEO MODELS

1:35 SCALE

- British M-3 Grant Accessory Set – Ref. 35070
- R.O.K. Army K-9 S.P.H. Accessory Set – Ref. 35062
- Russia KV-1 Accessory Set – Ref. 35063
- R.O.K. Army K1A1 Late – Ref. 35069
- US M-10 Detail Up Parts – Ref. 35067

1:76 SCALE

- Track for British MK-I – Ref. 76001

1:700 SCALE

- WW2 US Ship Rail Set – Ref. 700001

1:400 SCALE

- Passengers Figures – Ref. 400001

NO SCALE

- Lead Fall – 25mm x 100mm x 0.2mm (3 sheets)
- Mesh 1 [Square] 0.36 x 0.36 – Ref. 35065
- Mesh 2 [Square] 0.50 x 0.50 – Ref. 35066

Every time I sit down to review products from Neo Models from Korea I have a major problem. Why? Because I simply have no words to describe their sets.

What can I say? Well let's start by the resin parts: They are awesome, perfectly cast and ultra-detailed.

Now for the photo-etched parts. As usual, these are ultra-detailed and flawless. Instructions? Clear and concise.

As you can see there is almost impossible to criticize these products. They are just lovely.

Their new track set for the WWI British Mk.I in 1:76 scale is absolutely insane and will definitely transform your model into a showstopper.

In the Korean Army K-9 S.P.H. Accessory Set – Ref. 35062, besides the resin and PE parts, you even get several card ration boxes! Isn't that great?

Highly Recommended.

Thanks to Neo Models for the samples www.neograde.net
José Brito



COM.ART COLOURS

REAL DEAL WEATHERING KIT

ComArt Colours' Real Deal Weathering Kit comprises ten 1 oz. plastic squeeze bottles of acrylic paints to deal with a wide range of weathering requirements. The set has been developed by Leslie Eaton, a master model railroad modeller. The colours in the set are:

Light Dust
Soft Dirt
Fertile Soil
Blue Grey Smoke
Oil
Light Rust
Dark Rust
Opaque
Opaque Raw Sienna
Transparent Smoke

The weathering colours are pre-thinned and ready to spray in your airbrush straight from the bottle, but they may also be mixed with other colours or weathering products (such as pigments for texture) and applied by brush. I have tested the Dark Rust shade on a piece of plastic and can report that it dries nice and flat straight from the bottle.

The bottles each contain a metal ball to help ensure that the paint is properly mixed before use.

This pack provides a useful selection of weathering colours to add wear and tear to your models and scenes. As the instructions suggest, try experimenting and playing with these colours, mixing lighter shades using the Opaque White in the set and blending other colours.

Recommended.

Thanks to The Airbrush Company for the sample www.airbrushes.com
Brett Green



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HOW TO BUILD... TAMIYA'S 1:32 SPITFIRE Mk.IXc and Mk.VIII KITS

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PAGES

Revised Edition includes a full build of the brand new 1:32 Spitfire Mk.VIII plus a summary of available after-market accessories.

The complete guide to building Tamiya's amazing 1:32 Spitfire kits, written by Brett Green of HyperScale and Model Military fame, has now been updated to include the brand-new Spitfire Mk.VIII kit!

This revised edition features detailed builds of Tamiya's Spitfire Mk.IXc by Brett Green, a Spitfire Mk. VIII painted by Chris Wauchop and a Spitfire Mk.VII conversion by Roy Sutherland.

A summary of after-market decals and accessories is now included, along with a Gallery of models by Marcus Nicholls, Editor of TMMI, and Chris Wauchop.

Hundreds of images, reference photos and how to get the very best from the model - a must have before you build either the Tamiya Spitfire Mk.IXc or Mk.VIII kits!



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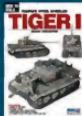
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48th 1:48 Scale - A round-up of the latest news and releases

2010 - A YEAR IN RETROSPECT

We brothers, it's that time of year again. It seems only yesterday that I was asked to write this 1:48 column and in that time we have indeed seen a lot of changes. There is no denying the industry and the hobby is in a state of flux at the moment. I believe that we will see a few changes in the following year, some of them good and others not so good.

Mainstream releases in the 1:48 scale market has slowed with many manufacturers reporting slow sales while others delaying or indeed cancelling 1:48 projects they had in the pipeline. What has been pleasing, however, is the rise of the aftermarket manufacturers to fill the void. Gasoline, Kengi and Hauler, to name but a few, have released some stunning full kits this year and in my opinion are well worth the asking price. Sure, they may seem a little high in price at first glance, but what you get in most instances is a well-rounded and complete kit right out of the box.

A few new names have also appeared, and for the most part have produced product that is so well detailed it defies belief. Tamya's 1:48 scale output has slowed dramatically since the heady days of its 1:48 scale Military Model launch but, pleasingly, what we seem to be getting from them now are better models in a variety of genres. The much despised metal lower hulls seem to be a thing of the past replaced by a more sensible weight in the hull, which has resulted in vastly more detailed (and easier to assemble) lower hull.

Following a few projects that were going to be

released this year has given me a rare insight into the dynamics of how a master model is made. In this particular instance, I have learnt "life sometimes gets in the way" to interrupt its release. We tend to rely on the "master modeller" to produce that special model that we are all hanging out for, but sometimes forget that these guys are just like you and me (admittedly with way more skill) and get disappointed when it does not show up. We tend to forget that these seemingly faceless corporations are just a master modeller with a casting machine! For the most part these guys have a 9 to 5 job like the rest of us. A lot of them do it for the fun of it - profit really, doesn't come in to it at all.

I have also seen the disturbing rise of what I call the "millimetre accuracy crowd" that appear, from time to time online in web forums. Whenever I read these, I am often reminded of a saying that was often said by an old boss of mine "I don't want to know about the problems, what I do want to know is about the possible solution to that problem". All kits have problems what we need to know is how to fix them. I guess then it's up to us all to firstly acknowledge, there may be faults, but try and come up with solutions on how to fix the problem. I have often said there is not one way to fix a problem, but many.

THE QUARTERS 2010 WINNERS

I mentioned last month that this column will be awarding a model or models that I consider to be the best 1:48 scale release of 2010. The award is called

the "QUARTERS" and is awarded in recognition of what we consider to be a ground breaking release. To be honest the releases this year have been quite good with the aftermarket crowd really leading the way in terms of innovation and expanding the market. I believe those who have read this column from inception know my views on figures.

For 1:48 to succeed, I believe top quality figures are needed to complement the various vehicles that have been released. For this reason we have decided to have a joint winner this year with Alpine and Evolution sharing the honours. Both of these releases offer the modeller and indeed figure painter unparalleled levels of detail that has up until now been unavailable to 1:48 scale modellers. Honourable mentions should also do out to Total War, Gasoline, D-toys, Hauler, Delugees and Kengi for releasing quite breathtaking releases this year.



Until next time *Luke Pitt*



TANK WORKSHOP

SHERMAN HULLS

As mentioned last month, Tank Workshop has seen fit to release a number of upgrades for the Hobby Boss and Tamya Shermans that will allow the modeller to produce almost all of the most common Sherman variants seen in WWII. Over the coming months I will review them all but, this month I will focus on the seven hulls in the range. The range includes:

- TWS48008: M4A1 Large Hatch upper hull for the Hobby boss kit
- TWS48009: M4A3 Late upper hull for both the Tamya and Hobby boss kits
- TWS48010: M4 Composite upper hull for both the Tamya and Hobby boss kits
- TWS48011: M4A1 Mid Production upper hull for the Tamya kit
- TWS48012: M4A3 Early upper hull for both the Tamya and Hobby boss kits
- TWS48013: M4 Early Direct upper hull version for both the Tamya and Hobby boss kits
- TWS48033: M4 Howitzer Turret and Hull combination for both the Tamya and Hobby boss kits

All of the hulls are very cleanly cast and exhibit improvements on the donor hulls on which they are based. The cast hulls intended for the Hobby Boss kits correct the glaring error this manufacturer made with the shape and slope of their hulls. The Tamya hulls have been improved upon with raised weld beadings and drain holes in evidence. All the hulls have a fine texture on them and are well worth the quite modest price they are on sale for. The really great thing about these hulls is almost all the work is done for you, so within reason, almost all Sherman variation is now (at last) possible. I know, over the coming year I will be using these hulls on various projects I have planned for 2011. Highly Recommended.

Thanks to The Tank Workshop for the samples www.tankworkshop.com
Luke Pitt

NEWS

Toro Models has released a quite lovely Kubus Improvised Armoured Car used in the Warsaw uprising.



Adalbertus has released a figure of Merian Cooper and before you discount it, this figure could with a little work could be used in any theatre of war.

Both of these releases can be purchased from the Adalbertus web site www.adalbertus.com.pl/

That is it for another year. Stay safe over the Christmas season
brothers, spread the good word and see you in the New Year!

Luke



EVOLUTION MINIATURES

Evolution Miniatures continues to release, in my opinion, some of the best 1:48 scale figure currently available today. The level of detail has to be seen to be believed. The detail in these figures would not be out of place on a 120mm figure let alone a 1:48 scale one. I will say this up front, if you haven't purchase these yet, go out and do so and experience how good a 1:48 scale figure can be. In this batch of releases we have

- EM-48002: Two English SAS Officers and One Arab in North Africa
- EM-48003: Two German Machine Gunners in cold weather gear
- EM-48004: Two German SS Soldiers in cold weather gear

The skill of Sergei Travlansky, the sculptor, is quite frankly amazing. It is the little things that set these figures apart - the small rips in the uniform, the general feeling you have when looking at them and the quality of the casting. It is flawless. The uniform details are so well done. The SAS set is of particular note, as it is almost a mini-vignette by itself. These releases together with their first release are worthy winners of the first MMI Quarter award.

Highly Recommended.

Thanks to Evolution Miniatures for the samples.

Luke Pitt



MMI 1:48 Scale Q&A - Steve Zaloga

Steve Zaloga really needs no introduction. His modelling and research are an inspiration to many. He combines an easy writing style together with impeccable research. He is also a modeller's modeller using a variety of techniques and styles to produce award winning models. I first became acquainted with Steve's work in late 1970's with the articles he wrote in Airfix magazine, and I have been reading and been influenced by his writing and models ever since.

Steve was born in 1952 and received his BA in History from Union College and his MA from Columbia University. His main area of interest is in military affairs in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe in World War II. Steve lives and works in Maryland USA. It is pleasing to have a chance to interview him this month. He is one of the hobbies true gentlemen often willing to help and guide others.

THE INTERVIEW

Luke: Hi Steve good to have you with us, what would you consider to be your best 1:48 scale model and why?

Steve: I liked the Operation Battleaxe Crusader conversion that I did from the Tamiya kit. I like the challenge of a conversion, and the Caunter paint scheme certainly made the paint finish a bit more challenging than usual. Also, I had some especially nice Dartmoor figures to accompany the tank that provides a more rounded presentation to the finished model.

Luke: What would you consider the most influential 1:48 scale model you have seen in print and why?

Steve: I can't say that any single model sticks out in my mind. I have been especially impressed with Pat Johnston's models, as he certainly shows the potential of this scale when combined with his outstanding painting techniques.

Luke: Yes, I have to agree Steve, Pat's work really does set new standards for the scale. Tell me Steve, If you had to pick one kit that should be made in 1:48 what would that be?

Steve: This is too tough a question Luke! I certainly hope that Tamiya scales down a few of its recent kits such as the Char B1 bis and Matilda. I wouldn't complain about a M24 or MSA1 light tank. Or how about some World War I or modern subjects...

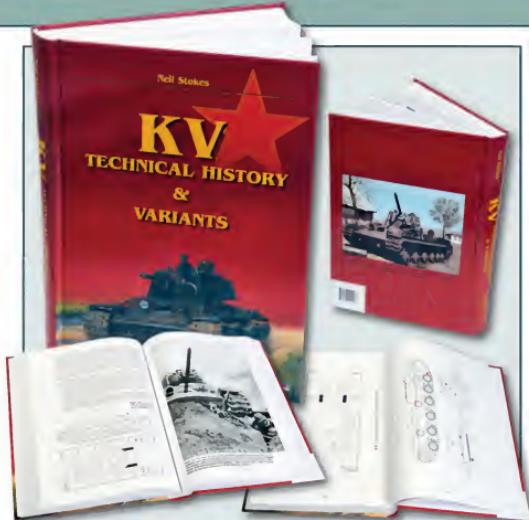
Luke: World War I, now there's something we don't see a lot of. Thanks for your time Steve, I am inspired and indeed influenced by your builds and know a lot of others are too. Do you have any additional thoughts on 1:48 scale AFV modelling?

Steve: If I had a "way-back" time-machine, I'd like to go back in time and convince Tamiya to move into 1:48 back in the 1970s instead of 1:35. I really think that 1:48 is an ideal tank modelling scale as it is big enough to permit detail rivalling 1:35, while at the same time it is much easier to assemble than my old favourite 1:72-1:76. The scale still hasn't spawned the sort of aftermarket that is available in 1:35 and 1:72. I have been put off many 1:48 projects by the lack of figures or diorama accessories of the sort that are so easy to find in the other common scales.





Book Reviews



KV TECHNICAL HISTORY AND VARIANTS

NEIL STOKES • AIRCONNECTION • ISBN 978-0-9781091-2-7

Every now and then, a book on a specialised subject appears that eclipses all that came before it. For the Sherman tank, it was Hunnicutt.

Now, Neil Stokes has delivered the definitive English-language tour de force for the KV family of Soviet heavy tanks.

The KV family was the first series of single-turret Soviet heavy tanks, marking the end of the 1930s preoccupation toward mammoth, multi-turreted heavy tanks. Stalin himself directed that the new tank should have a single turret. The resulting vehicle, designed by five post-graduate students, evolved to become the KV tank.

The KV tank was named in honour of Kliment Yefremovich Voroshilov, a Marshall of the Soviet Union. His military record was less than impressive, but his initials are destined to live on in the annals of military vehicle history because he was the godfather of the wife of the KV design bureau chief.

"KV Technical History and Variants" is a hardcover book with 560 high-quality, glossy pages in A4 format. At 2.7 kilograms, this is a weighty tome in every sense of the word. As the title suggests, this book principally covers the technical history and variants of the KV family. It does this exceedingly well. The book describes all major variants and sub-variants of the KV family including the KV-1, KV-1S, KV-85, KV-5, KV-2, KV-8 and SU-152. Despite the technical nature of the text, it is quite readable. The structure of the book is also logical, making it relatively simple to find specific information on variants or attributes of a particular KV. The book draws upon wartime Soviet documents and technical manuals, factory archive material and other primary source references.

The photos and illustrations are another highlight. The book is packed with 350 well-reproduced photographs (mostly wartime, supplemented with detail photos of museum examples) and over 300 drawings including 50 pages of 1:35 scale drawings and 12 pages of colour profiles.

Following a logical procession through the variants of the KV tank, we are also treated to a 22 page Chapter on Organisation, Colours and Markings, then KVs in Foreign Service and an Appendix of very useful scale illustrations stretching over more than 50 pages. Each major KV variant is covered in four-view line drawings, all presented in 1:35 scale.

Apart from the background and development history, military operations and performance analysis are not covered in this volume.

Modellers should also check out the related website, www.4bogreen.com, which provides modelling-related information including kit reviews, lists of available after-market products and tweaks lists.

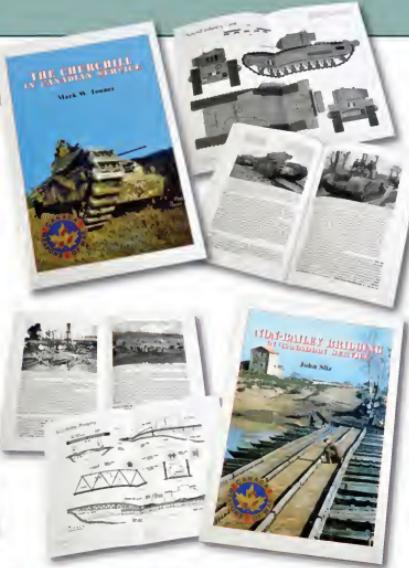
The KV tank was overshadowed by its more famous stablemate, the T-34, but still performed an important role in the Great Patriotic War well beyond the German Invasion in 1941. "KV Technical History and Variants" is a marvellous resource on this important but often neglected family. Perhaps more than anything else, it goes a long way towards making sense of the jumble of different hulls, turrets, wheels, armament, fittings and stowage that make up this complex armoured dynasty.

"KV Technical History and Variants" is an essential reference for Soviet military vehicle buffs and modellers alike.

Highly Recommended.

Thanks to AirConnection for the sample www.airconnection.on.ca

Brett Green



WEAPONS OF WAR SERIES

THE CHURCHILL IN CANADIAN SERVICE – MARK W TONNER

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SERVICE PUBLICATIONS

The Canadian Army has fielded many different weapons, vehicles and weapon systems over the years. Service Publications' series of softcover books is dedicated to those subjects. These are the latest titles in the series joining 24 similar titles already in the range. These books cram a lot of useful information backed by black and white photographs and scale drawings into their A5 sized pages and are a great addition to the library whether you are a modeller, historian or enthusiast.

The first title is the Churchill Tank in Canadian Service, which offers a useful background to the Churchill's Canadian service. The Churchill was in Canadian army service from July 1941 until May 1943 and this book has compiled many pictures covering that service. The Canadians used the Mk I, II, III and IV and a good selection of all variants are pictured in the book. The text is extremely informative and covers a brief development history, description of the marks, Canadian Issue and service history. A foldout plan and elevation drawing of a Mk.II is the book's centrepiece. This vehicle bears the markings of A Squadron 12 CAB –Three Rivers Regiment. The only colour picture is on the cover, like the rest of the series. The title offers some interesting modelling alternatives to the usual Churchill schemes and locations.

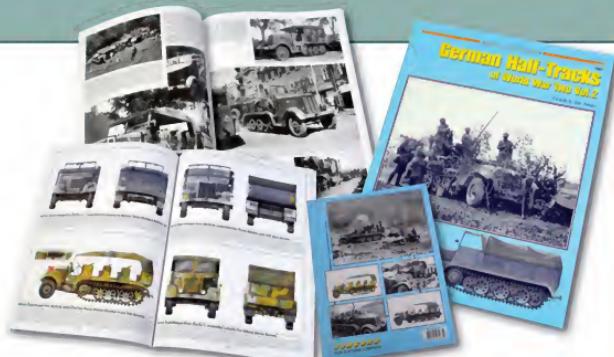
Next on the review desk is an interesting title devoted to Bridging Systems (excluding the ubiquitous Bailey type) as used by the Royal Canadian Engineers (RCE). This is a subject not often covered and one I would like to see fleshed out to a full book as the range of equipment is broad and fascinating. Following the usual format, this book covers Infantry Bridges such as the "Olafson", and moves onto dry vehicle bridges such as the large and small Box Girder Bridges, Track and Treadway Bridges and the Unit Construction Bridge. It then covers the "Wet" Bridges such as the Folding Boat and Pontoon bridges.

Again, the title is well illustrated and the text is informative and easy to read. This is a great title and highly recommended as it gives the reader an idea of the importance of these equipments rarely touched on. Bridging was essential to the Allied campaigns and it is nice to see the brave men who assembled these often under murderous fire recognised. These books cram a lot of useful information backed by black and white photographs and line drawings into their A5 sized pages. They represent a great addition to the library whether you are a modeller, historian or enthusiast.

Recommended.

Samples supplied by Service Publications - Weapons of War www.servicepub.com/weapons.html

AI Bowie



GERMAN HALF-TRACKS OF WORLD WAR 2 VOL 2

FRANK DE SITO • CONCORD PUBLICATIONS • ISBN: 962-361-148-X

Concord's new reference book on German half-tracks is presented in 72 pages between soft covers. This title covers a wide variety of types including the Kettenkraftwagen, Sd.Kfz.10/4 & 10/5, Sd.Kfz.11, Sd.Kfz.6, Sd.Kfz.7, Sd.Kfz.8 and lastly the Sd.Kfz.9.

The photo coverage is very well done with 192 photos included. The captions are for the most part extremely helpful. There are some photographs that just cry out to be made into model form, such as an Sd.Kfz.11 on page 22 turning into a sloped corner. This photo shows graphically how much movement the front suspension could travel and would make a great diorama. The photo coverage of the Sd.Kfz.10/4 & 10/5 is very well done also and one can only wonder when a new release of this very attractive halftrack will be made available.

As usual, eight pages of color plates are featured by Laurent Lecocq, which are technically correct but in my opinion a little uninspired.

This book is good introduction to a wide variety of German halftracks and would be a worthwhile inclusion to any reference library.

Recommended.

Thanks to Casemate UK for the sample www.casematepublishing.co.uk
Luke Pitt



WARRIORS OF IMPERIAL JAPAN

CLAUDIO ANTONUCCI • CONCORD PUBLICATIONS • ISBN: 962-361-171-4

I have been on a Japanese modelling kick over the last few months so when this book was offered for review, it was most gratefully accepted.

Concord's "Warriors of Imperial Japan" is divided into two sections over 52 pages with 10 colour plates and 102 photos. The first section provides illustrations of the various uniforms used by the Japanese at different times in the Pacific War and in operations in China.

I must say that the illustrations are not to my liking. They are quite cartoonish in nature. They have all the detail you want but I just did not like the caricature style used by the artist. Additionally, the information provided on the illustrations is somewhat chaotic and a little difficult to read. To me, the layout on this section of the book is below par.

The second section of the book provides both coloured and black and white photos of Japanese soldiers in combat and, in this reviewer's mind, is much better in terms of style and layout! Not only is it easy to read, it also provides all the information we modellers need.

This book is intended as a basic introduction to the uniforms of the Japanese during the war period and as such it does a good job. I did, however, find some of the text a little difficult to follow and the illustrations not to my taste. On the other hand, it is packed with useful information and is a worthwhile reference source.

Recommended.

Thanks to Casemate UK for the sample www.casematepublishing.co.uk
Luke Pitt

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WHO DARES WINS

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The Last Post..

2010 IN REVIEW

Another year is coming to an end...

The Global Financial Crisis continued to bite in 2010, especially in North America and Europe, but our hobby seems to have gone from strength to strength.

I cannot recall any period that has seen so many new kit and figure releases. The biggest growth has been from the Far East, and China in particular. This economic powerhouse is certainly flexing its strength muscles.

After a shaky start in their early years, Trumpeter is lifting its game with some excellent new kits during 2010. They have also displayed a willingness to revisit and improve earlier subjects. Their most recent 1:35 scale Challenger II is a prime example. This is the third time in the last decade that they have significantly revised and improved the basic kit.

GreatWall Hobby is also worthy of mention. They have been producing photo-etched detail sets for nearly ten years, but 2010 saw them burst onto the plastic kit scene with their well-detailed family of sWS half-tracks. Subsequent releases including the Rheinmetall 12.8cm K44 L/55 High Velocity Anti-Tank Gun proved that their debut release was no fluke.

The more established companies have been busy too. Dragon and cyber-hobby continue to offer both esoteric and mainstream armour subjects in 1:35 and 1:72 scales. It is pleasing to see more German releases with Zimmerit moulded in place, but for me the most exciting Dragon offering for 2010 is their 1:35 scale M7 Priest. Not only is this an accurate and well-detailed kit, it seems to herald a slightly simpler parts breakdown when compared to earlier Dragon releases. It will be interesting to see if this new style of engineering is a one-off or the start of a trend.

Tamiya's 2010 military model highlight must be its beautiful 1:35 scale BT-7 kit. Once again, Tamiya has set the benchmark for a gorgeously detailed, cleverly engineered and easy to build model. This release also included two figures that are noticeably better than those included in previous kits. Tamiya's 1:35 scale Tilly, a new series of 1:35 scale radio control

tanks and a number of re-releases have been very welcome too.

The after-market has been industrious, with new releases from established companies and fresh names entering this arena.

New military kit releases in 1:48 scale have slowed down, but we have still seen some interesting subjects appearing from Tamiya this year - their Sd.Kfz. 251 and the Jagdtiger - and also from smaller manufacturers. Kengi Models, for example, released their gem-like 1:48 scale M18 Hellcat. We'll be hearing more about this model early in 2011. If the pace of kit releases in 1:48 scale seems sluggish, conversions and updates are still quite busy thanks to companies like Gaso.Line.

Reference sources have been thick on the ground this year too. Publishers from Eastern Europe such as Kagero continue to pump out photographic reference books at a rapid rate, while we have also seen high quality offerings from Ampersand, Nuts and Bolts, Osprey, Tankograd, Panzerwrecks and more. The reference highlight of my year, however, must be AirConnection's "KV Technical History and Variants" book, as reviewed in this issue of MMi.

2010 has also been a year of travel. I was fortunate enough to attend my first Shizuoka Hobby Show in Japan during May, and had the opportunity to tread the hallowed hallways of Tamiya's corporate headquarters during this trip. I have visited many model conventions over the years, but I have never seen so many people crammed into the aisles as a public days at Shizuoka. I was also invited

to Squadron's EagleQuest XIX at Dallas / Fort Worth, Texas.

In contrast to the huge scale of Shizuoka, this intimate American show highlighted the social side of the hobby, offering the chance to catch up with old acquaintances and make new friends.

At the end of 2010 I have been in the Editor's job for more than 18 months. They say time flies when you're having fun and I have to agree on both counts. After having been involved in web publishing for 13 years, this has been my first foray into the world of print, and I am loving it.

Model Military International magazine is a real team effort. Every month we see a list of names in small type on page 65, but their contributions are much larger than the 6-point font might suggest. Some of you may not be aware that, although ADH Publishing's office is located in the UK, I actually live and work in Sydney Australia. The fact that this extreme telecommuting arrangement works so well is a testament to the team. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone at ADH, but in particular Alan Harman, our esteemed Publisher, for appointing me to this position in the first place, and for permitting me the leeway to

make a number of changes; Marcus Nichols, Group Editor, for always being a willing sounding board; and a special note of appreciation to MMi's Graphic Designer, Alex Hall, who translates raw text and images into the striking layouts that we see in the magazine each month.

Of course, the team extends beyond the walls of the ADH offices. I am privileged to be surrounded by a talented ensemble of modellers and experts who make the magazine informative and relevant every month. I don't have the space to mention the entire cast of thousands (you all know who you are), but I would like to note Luke Pitt, Al Bowie, Andrew Judson, Stuart Ransley, Bruce Culver, William Marshall, Graham Tolley, Darren Thompson, Alex Clark, Chris Wauchope, Sam Dwyer and Anthony Sheedy for their ongoing efforts on behalf of the magazine.

And thank you too, faithful reader. Without your support, Model Military International would not be possible.

The military model scene has certainly been vibrant in 2010. I look forward to seeing what 2011 holds. ■

Brett





State of the Art

The World's most supreme quality spray paint for plastics is on its way back.

Tamiya's TS has been completely reformulated to deliver an improved quality and finish that even surpasses the previous high standards that Tamiya was famous for.

The new paint has been extensively tested after long term storage in extremes of hot and cold temperatures and Tamiya engineers report being delighted with the enhanced quality level that has been achieved.

The new formulation is also fully compliant with all current and forthcoming EEC regulations - a vital claim in this world of ever-stricter regulation of chemical products.

85 colours have now been reformulated and of these 54 will be hitting the model shop shelves in mid October. The balance should be in place before the end of the year.

Look out for the new improved TS Sprays for Plastic from Tamiya - and experience for yourself the state of the art paint finish!



TS Availability Summary

85001	TS-1 Red Brown	85022	TS-22 Light Green	85043	TS-43 Racing Green	85064	TS-64 Dark Mica Blue
85002	TS-2 Dark Green	85023	TS-23 Light Blue	85044	TS-44 BRILLIANT BLUE	85065	TS-65 Pearl Clear
85003	TS-3 Dark Yellow	85024	TS-24 Purple	85045	TS-45 PEARL WHITE	85066	TS-66 IJN Grey Kure
85004	TS-4 German Grey	85025	TS-25 Pink	85046	TS-46 Light Sand	85067	TS-67 IJN Grey [Sasebo]
85005	TS-5 Olive Drab	85026	TS-26 Pure White	85047	TS-47 Chrome Yellow	85068	TS-68 Wooden Deck Tan
85006	TS-6 Matt Black	85027	TS-27 Matt White	85048	TS-48 Gunship Grey	85069	TS-69 Linoleum Deck Brown
85007	TS-7 Racing White	85028	TS-28 Olive Drab 2	85049	TS-49 Bright Red	85070	TS-70 Olive Drab (JSDF)
85008	TS-8 Italian Red	85029	TS-29 Semi Gloss Black	85050	TS-50 Mica Blue	85071	TS-71 Smoke
85009	TS-9 British Green	85030	TS-30 Silver Leaf	85051	TS-51 Racing Blue	85072	TS-72 Clear Blue
85010	TS-10 French Blue	85031	TS-31 Bright Orange	85052	TS-52 Candy Lime Green (Kawasaki)	85073	TS-73 Clear Orange
85011	TS-11 Maroon	85032	TS-32 Haze Grey	85053	TS-53 Deep Metallic Blue	85074	TS-74 Clear Red
85012	TS-12 Orange	85033	TS-33 Hull Red	85054	TS-54 Light Metallic Blue	85075	TS-75 Champagne Gold
85013	TS-13 Clear	85034	TS-34 Camel Yellow	85055	TS-55 Dark Blue	85076	TS-76 Mica Silver
85014	TS-14 Black	85035	TS-35 Park Green	85056	TS-56 Brilliant Orange	85077	TS-77 Flax Flesh
85015	TS-15 BLUE	85036	TS-36 Fluorescent Red	85057	TS-57 Violet Blue	85078	TS-78 Field Grey
85016	TS-16 Yellow	85037	TS-37 Lavender	85058	TS-58 Pearl Light Blue	85079	TS-79 Semi Gloss Clear
85017	TS-17 Gloss Aluminium	85038	TS-38 Gun Metal	85059	TS-59 Pearl Light Red	85080	TS-80 Flat Clear
85018	TS-18 METALLIC RED	85039	TS-39 Mica Red	85060	TS-60 Pearl Green	85081	TS-81 Royal Light Grey
85019	TS-19 Metallic Blue	85040	TS-40 METALLIC BLACK	85061	TS-61 NATO Green	85082	TS-82 Rubber Black
85020	TS-20 Metallic Green	85041	TS-41 Coral Blue	85062	TS-62 Mato Brown	85083	TS-83 Metallic Silver
85021	TS-21 Gold	85042	TS-42 LIGHT GUN METAL	85063	TS-63 Mato Black	85084	TS-84 Metallic Gold
						85085	TS-85 Bright Mica Red

Colours highlighted in yellow due mid October

Tamiya products are distributed in the UK by The Hobby Company Limited, Knowhill, Milton Keynes, MK5 8PG
See the full Tamiya range at www.hobbyco.net

Tamiya products are available from all good model shops





Sd.Kfz 2 KLEINES KETTENKRAFTRAD
GERMAN ANTRICYCLOPE TRACTOR + COMBAT CREW SET



1/35 MILITARY MINIATURE SERIES



German Kettenkraftrad
Item 35029

Relive Modeling Memories

Tamiya's 1/35 scale Military Miniature Series was established during 1970s and nine classic kits from that era, including the German Kettenkraftrad, Zündapp KS750 & BMW R75, and British Quad Gun Tractor, are available once again by popular demand. They can be assembled just as they are or serve as a canvas for your own added details. The 1970s saw the diorama creation movement, which included Tamiya's unique Pachi Contest, take root and the U.S. Combat Group Set and Road Sign Set that were used to liven up dioramas are also part of this re-release. The latest finishing materials such as Weathering Master Sets, Weathering Sticks, and Diorama Texture Paints can be used to give these nostalgic models a greater level of realism than ever before. Even after 40 years, these masterpiece kits in their simple white packaging still offer exceptional enjoyment.

1/35 MM Series Limited Re-Release Products



Zündapp KS750 & BMW R75
Item 35023



U.S. Light Tank M3 Stuart
Item 35042



British Quad Gun Tractor
Item 35045



U.S. Armored Personnel Carrier M3A2 Half-Track
Item 35070



U.S. Combat Group Set
Item 35080



German Field Kitchen
Item 35103



U.S. Army Self Propelled A.A. Gun
M42 Duster Item 35161



Road Sign Set
Item 35057